

Oh My Goddess!

ああっ女神さまっ

1

藤島康介

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Oh My Goddess!

ああっ女神さまっ

1

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WITH Tom2K



TM
DARK HORSE MANGA





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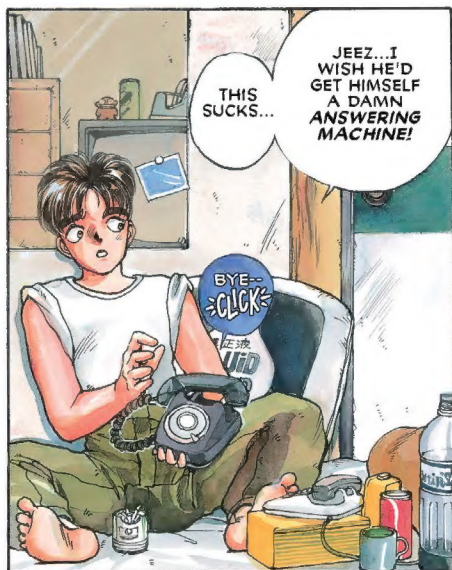
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THIS SUCKS...

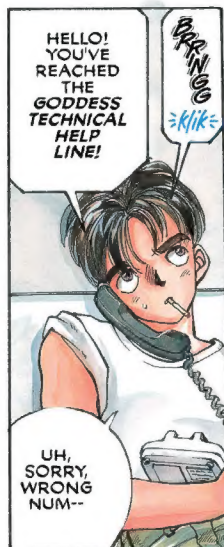
JEEZ...I WISH HE'D GET HIMSELF A DAMN ANSWERING MACHINE!

HE SAID TO TELL YOU HE'D MAKE IT UP TO YOU LATER.

SORRY, TAMIYA WAS SUDDENLY CALLED INTO WORK TONIGHT...

A LOT OF PEOPLE SPEND THEIR SATURDAY NIGHTS WITH HER...

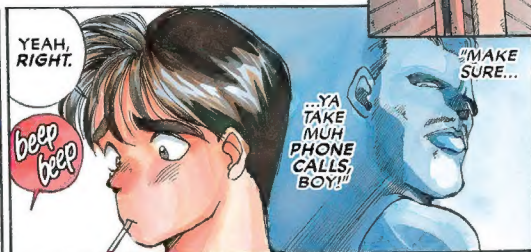
YEAH, OKAY, I'LL TELL HIM.



HELLO! YOU'VE REACHED THE GODDESS TECHNICAL HELP LINE!

BRING
klik--

UH, SORRY, WRONG NUM--



YEAH, RIGHT.

beep
beep

...YA TAKE MUH PHONE CALLS, BOY!"

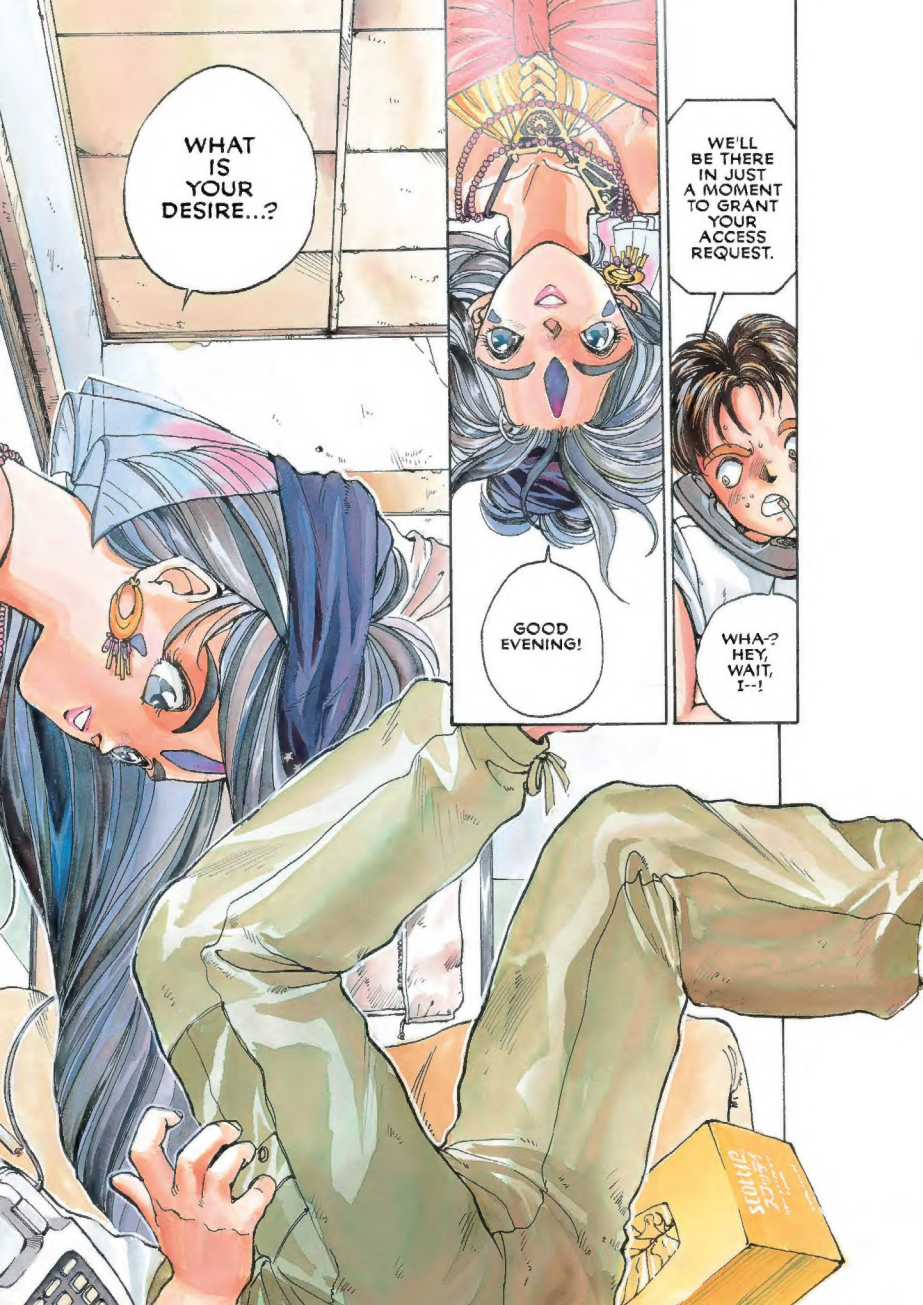
"MAKE SURE..."



HE TOLD ME TO GIVE HIM A CALL IF HE GOT ANY MESSAGES...

OOPS...

beep



WHAT
IS
YOUR
DESIRE...?

GOOD
EVENING!

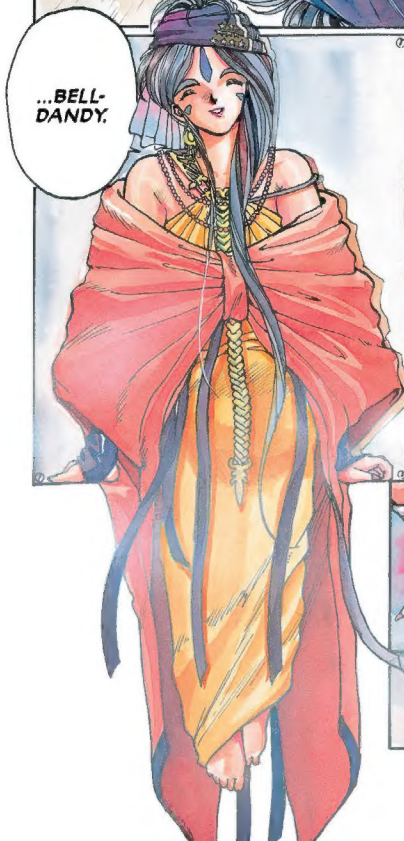
WE'LL
BE THERE
IN JUST
A MOMENT
TO GRANT
YOUR
ACCESS
REQUEST.

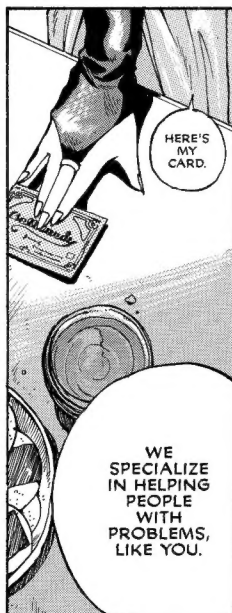
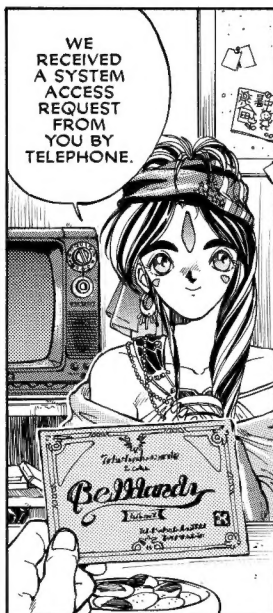
WHA-?
HEY,
WAIT,
I--!

CHAPTER 1

The Number You Have Dialed Is Incorrect







IF YOU
WANT TO
BE A
BILLIONAIRE...

YES,
OF
COURSE.

...WE'LL
TAKE
CARE
OF IT.

A
WISH?

FOR
ANYTHING
AT
ALL?!

...OF
COURSE...
WE PREFER
TO AVOID
DOING
BUSINESS
WITH THAT
SORT OF
CUSTOMER...

IF YOU
WANT TO
DESTROY
THE
WORLD,
WE CAN
DO THAT,
TOO...



WHY DO
YOU SAY
YOU NEVER
HAVE
GOOD
FORTUNE
WITH
WOMEN?

AM I
DREAMING?
NAH, THIS
MUST BE
SOME KINDA
SETUP. IT'S
THAT JERK
TAMIYA AND
HIS SICK
BUDDIES.

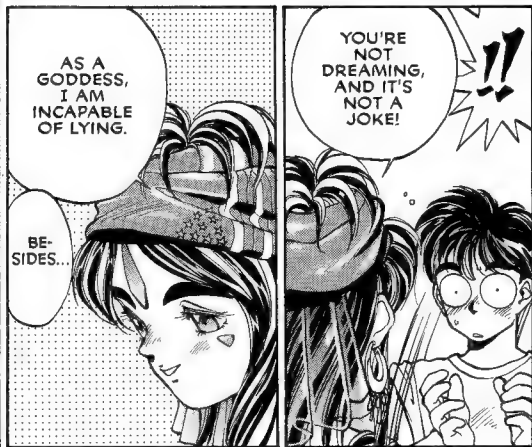
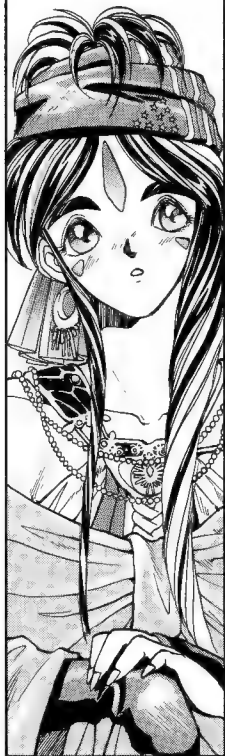
SO GO
AHEAD.
ASK FOR
ANYTHING
YOU
LIKE.



AS A
GODDESS,
I AM
INCAPABLE
OF LYING.

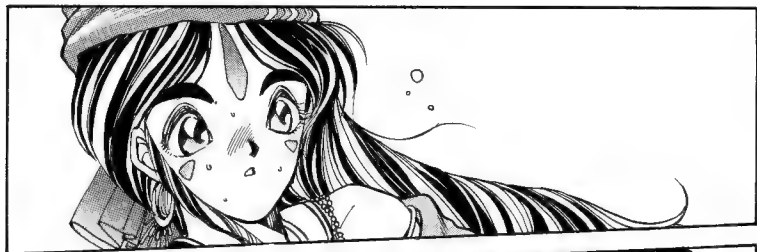
BE-
SIDES...

YOU'RE
NOT
DREAMING,
AND IT'S
NOT A
JOKES!







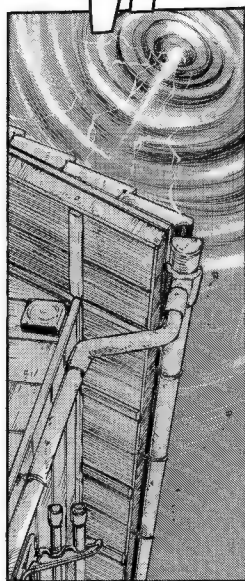


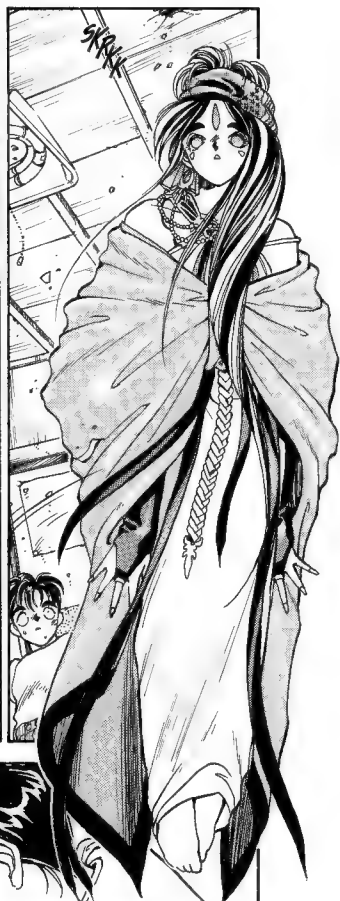


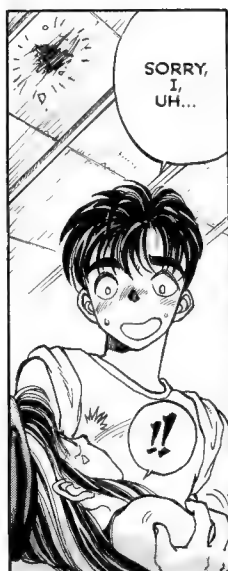
KAKOON

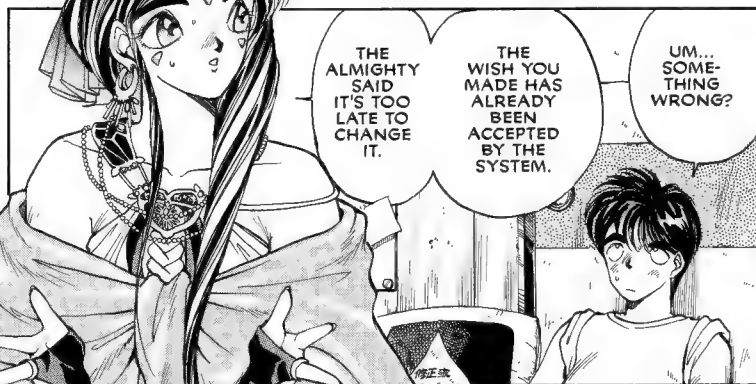
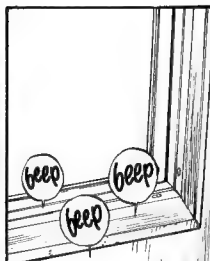
TSUN

小清水











Y-YOU
MEAN MY
WISH
FOR YOU
TO ALWAYS
BE
HERE?!

WHADDAYA
MEAN,
ACCEPTED
AND TOO
LATE TO
CHANGE
IT?!

THAT'S
RIGHT.



WELL...
THAT'S
NICE...

ALREADY
ACCEPTED,
HUH...



NOBODY
CAN
RESIST
IT.

ONCE IT'S
BEEN FILED
AND
ARCHIVED,
A WISH
ACQUIRES
TREMENDOUS
FORCE.

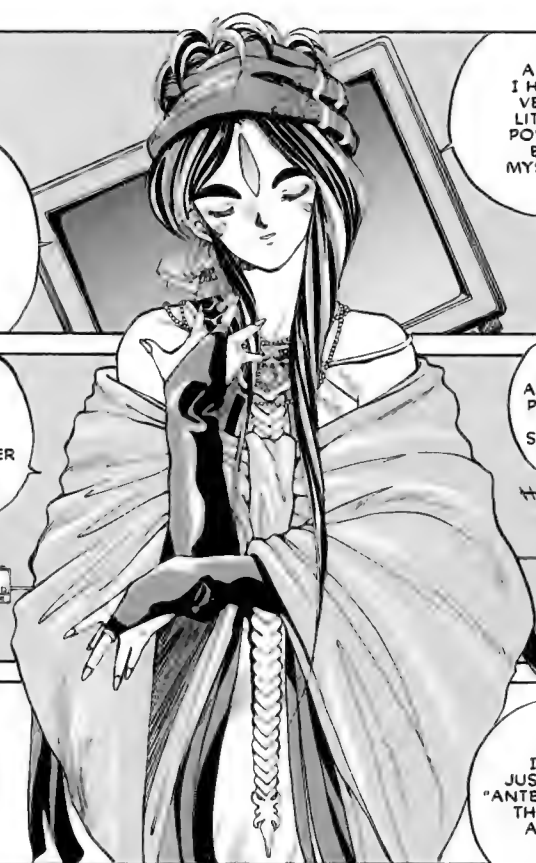


I'M
AFRAID
NOT.

THERE'S
SOME WAY
YOU CAN
CANCEL IT,
ISN'T
THERE?

BUT...
BUT
THAT'S
CRAZY!!

no can do!



A TV
SET CAN'T
RECEIVE
SIGNALS
WITHOUT
HELP, CAN
IT?

AND
I HAVE
VERY
LITTLE
POWER
BY
MYSELF.

...AND
SOMETIMES
IT EVEN HAS
TO PASS
THROUGH A
SIGNAL BOOSTER
BEFORE IT
GETS TO THE
SCREEN.

THE
ANTENNA
PICKS UP
THE
SIGNAL...

I'M
JUST AN
"ANTENNA"...
THAT'S
ALL.



Y-
YOU
MEAN..

ALL
I DO IS
TRANSFER
WISHES
TO THE
ALMIGHTY.





SO, UH...
I WANT
YOU TO
LEAVE FOR
JUST A
LITTLE
WHILE,
ANYWAY...
OKAY?

THUD
THUD

THAT'S
NOT THE
POINT!

I'M
NOT A
WOMAN...
I'M A
GODDESS!



WELL,
I'M
SORRY,
BUT...

OH
DEAR...
YOU
DO?



WHAT
?!

...UNFOR-
TUNATELY
THE
FORCE OF
THE WISH
WORKS
UPON YOU,
TOO.



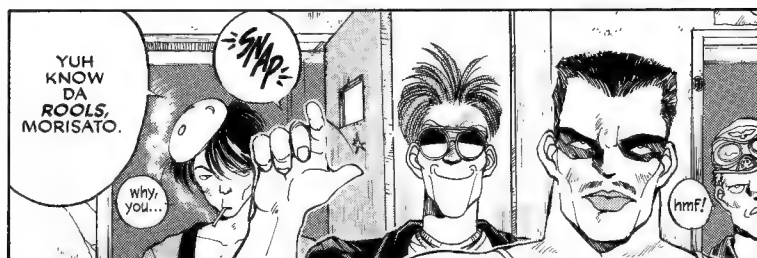
IF YOU
EVEN SAY
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT,
IT'S LIABLE
TO
CAUSE...
TROUBLE.



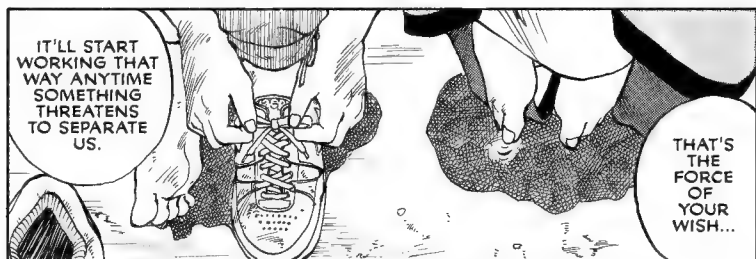
"TROUBLE"
...?!
W-WHAT
KIND OF
TROUBLE
?!
Pop



YO!
MORISATO!
YUH TAKE
M'CALLS
LIKE I TOLE
YUH?



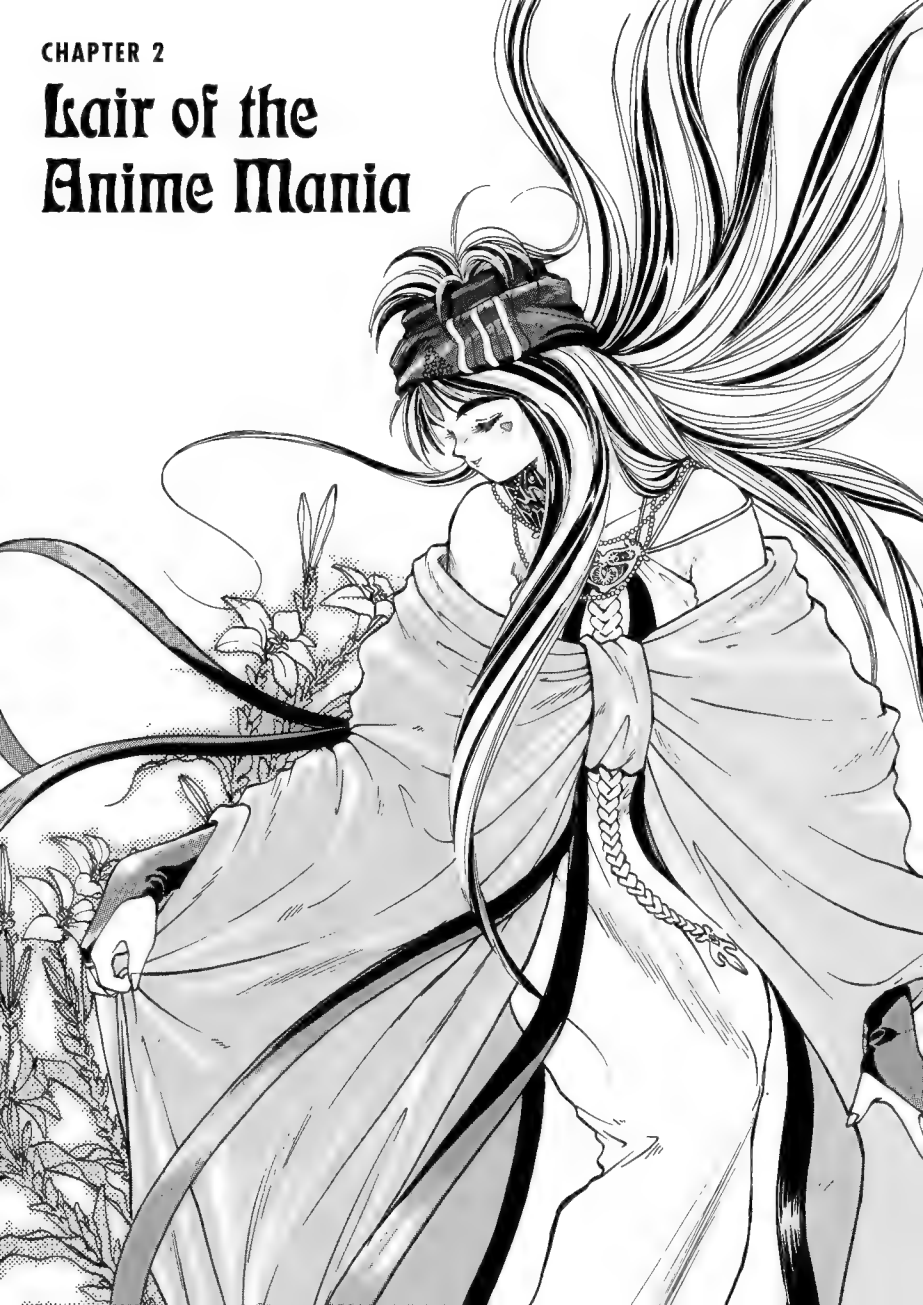






CHAPTER 2

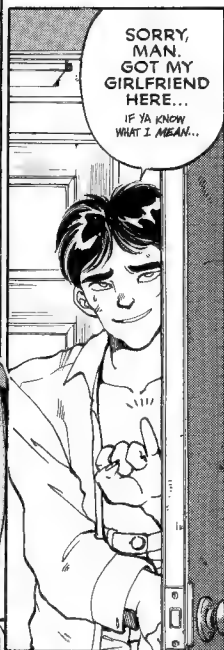
Hair of the Anime Mania



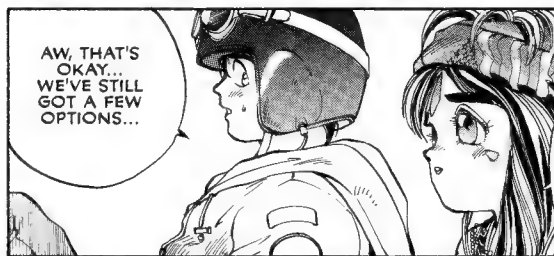


WELL...
THAT
WAS THE
TENTH
PLACE.

SHEESH!
AND
HE SAYS
HE'S MY
FRIEND?



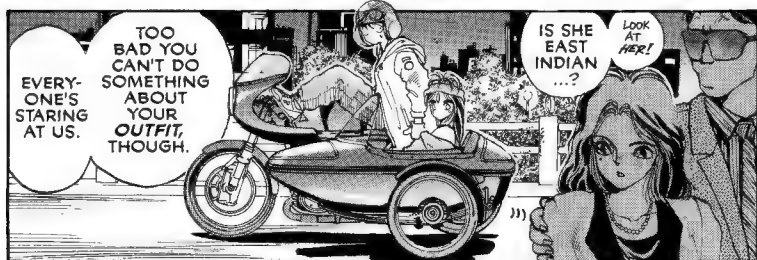
SORRY,
MAN.
GOT MY
GIRLFRIEND
HERE...
IF YA KNOW
WHAT I MEAN...



AW, THAT'S
OKAY...
WE'VE STILL
GOT A FEW
OPTIONS...

...YOU
GOT
THROWN
OUT OF
YOUR
DORM
JUST
BECAUSE
OF ME.

I'M
SO
SORRY...

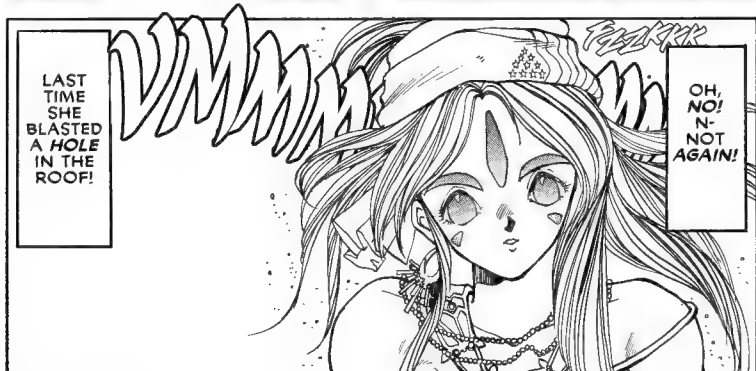


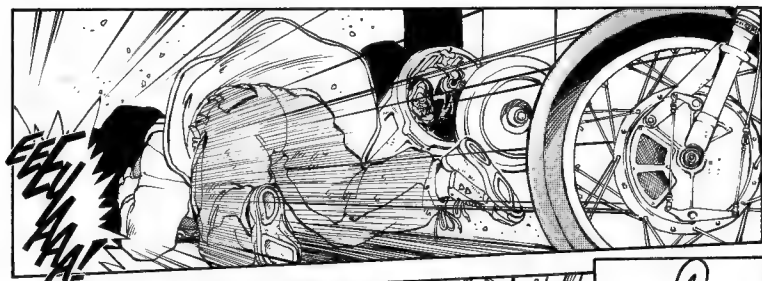
EVERY-
ONE'S
STARING
AT US.

TOO
BAD YOU
CAN'T DO
SOMETHING
ABOUT
YOUR
OUTFIT,
THOUGH.

IS SHE
EAST
INDIAN
...?

LOOK
AT
HER!





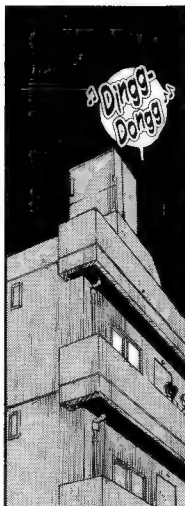
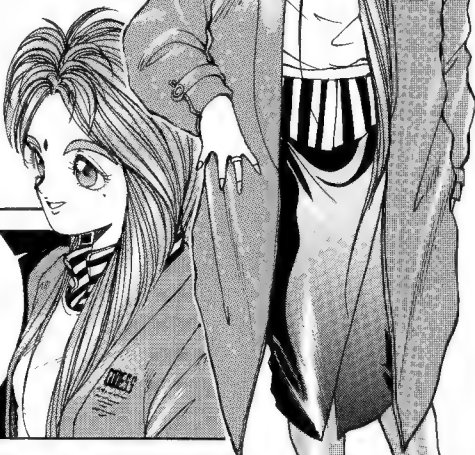


WHUH...
H-HOW'D
YOU
DO
THAT?!

IS
THIS
BETTER
...?

OH, I JUST
DISMANTLED
MATTER AT
THE ATOMIC
LEVEL AND
REARRANGED
IT A LITTLE.

IT'S EASY,
BUT I HAVE
TO BE
CAREFUL...
I CAN'T DO
THIS MORE
THAN TWO
OR THREE
TIMES A
DAY.

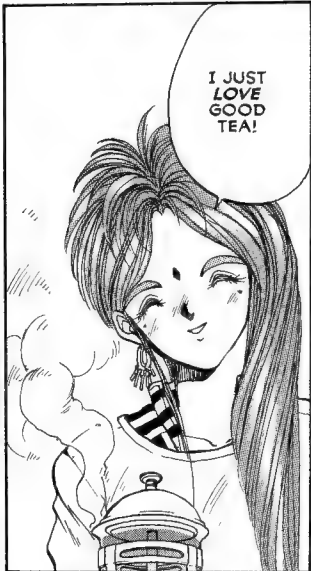
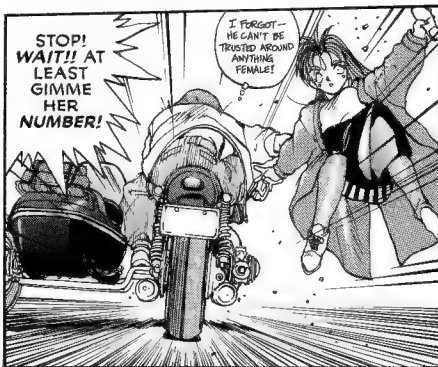


SO?
SHALL
WE
GO?

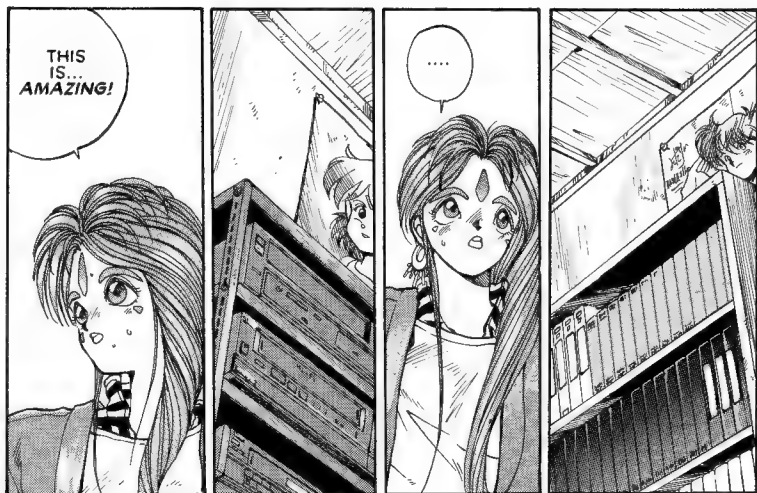
"IT'S
EASY..."

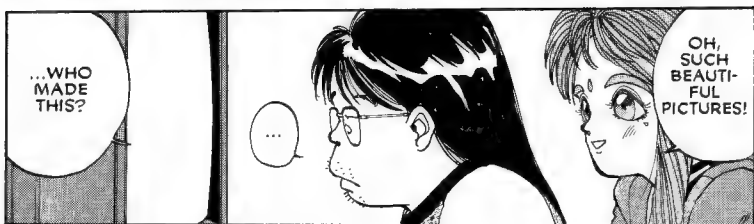
.....
U
U

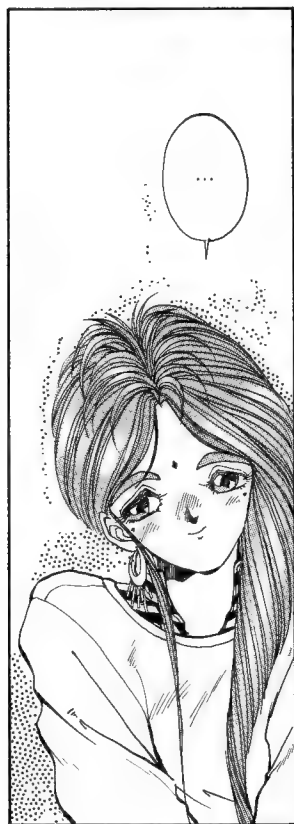


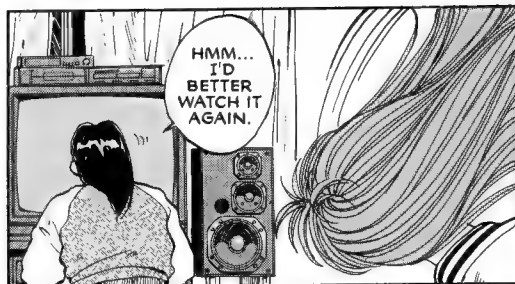


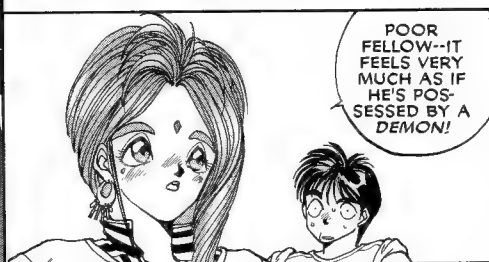








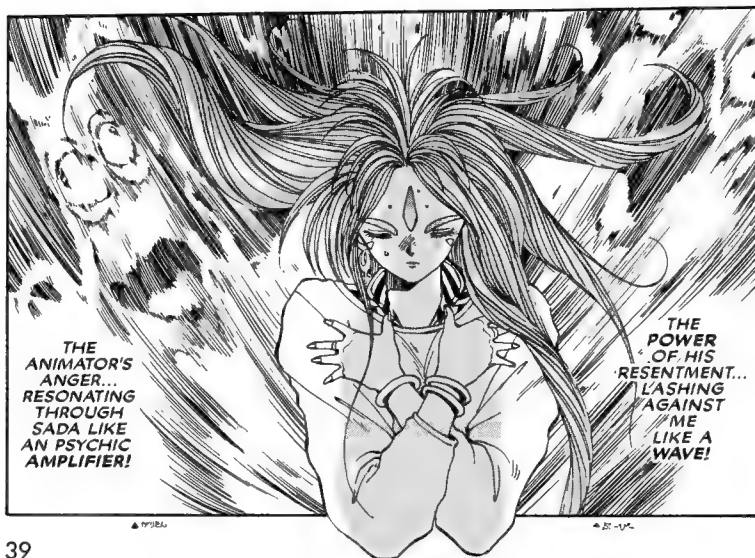
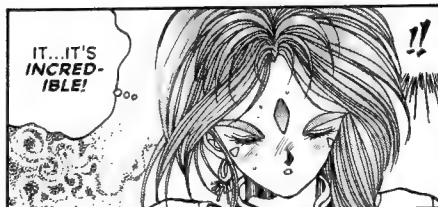
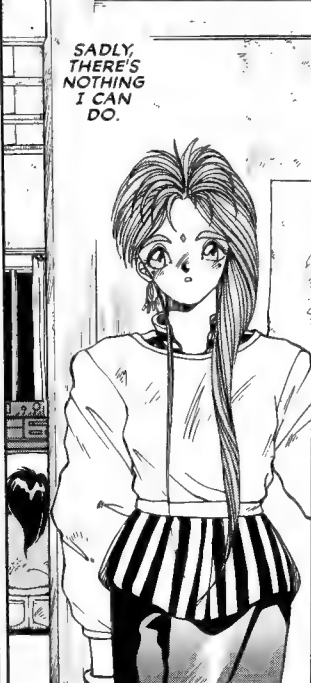






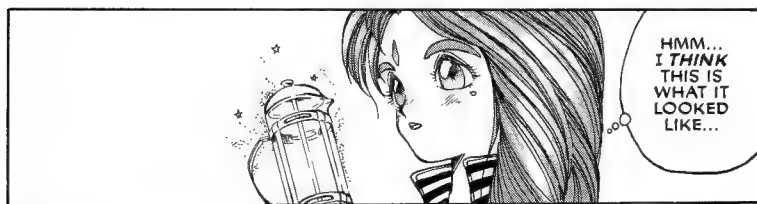
HE
CAN
ONLY
BE
FREED
OF
HIS
OWN
WILL.

SADLY,
THERE'S
NOTHING
I CAN
DO.

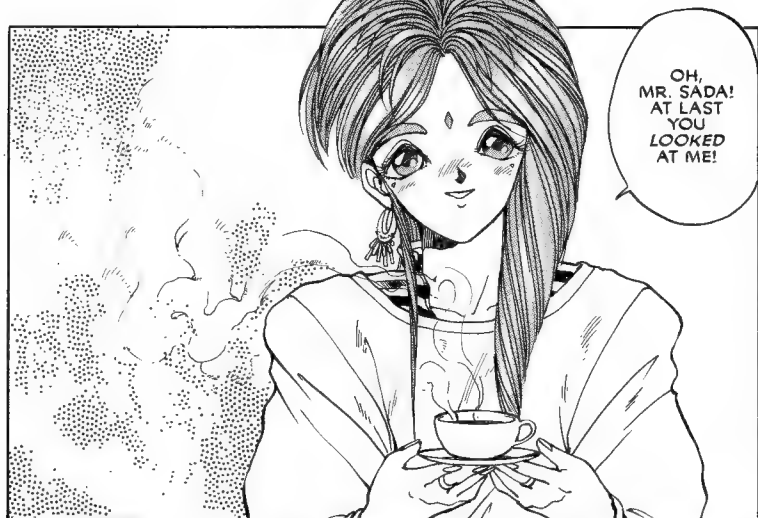


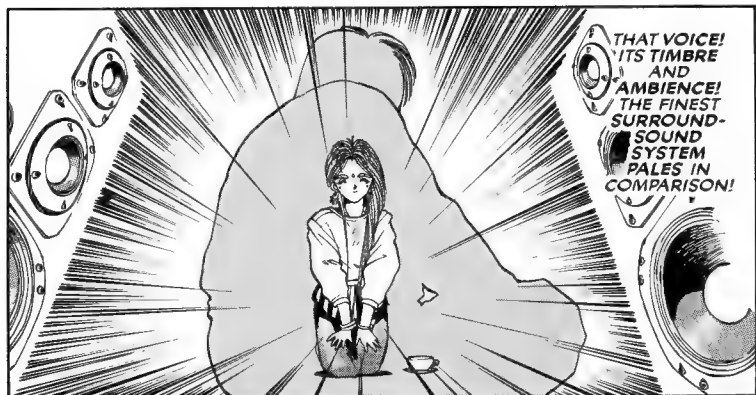
THE
ANIMATOR'S
ANGER...
RESONATING
THROUGH
SADA LIKE
AN PSYCHIC
AMPLIFIER!

THE
POWER
OF HIS
RESENTMENT...
LASHING
AGAINST
ME
LIKE A
WAVE!

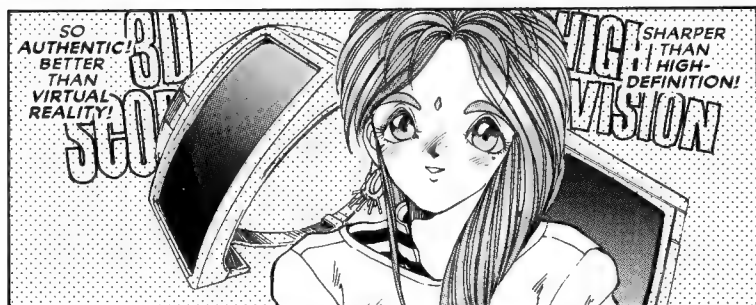






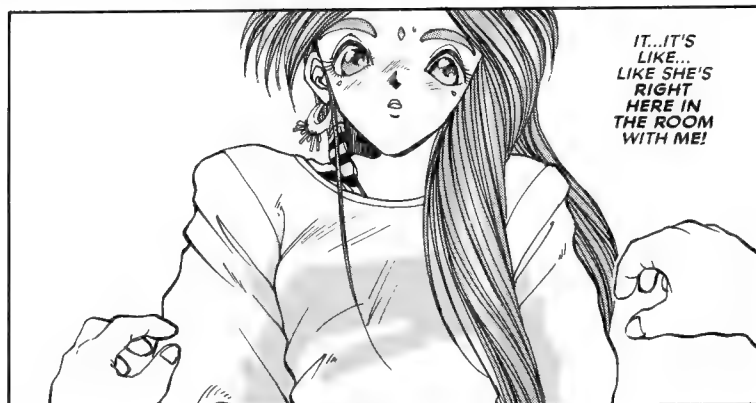


THAT VOICE!
ITS TIMBRE
AND
AMBIENCE!
THE FINEST
SURROUND-
SOUND
SYSTEM
PALES IN
COMPARISON!

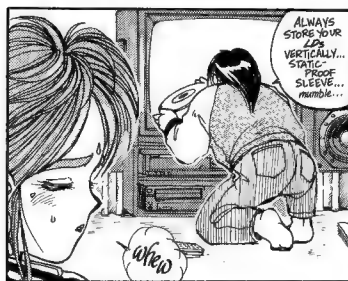


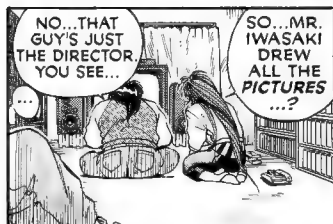
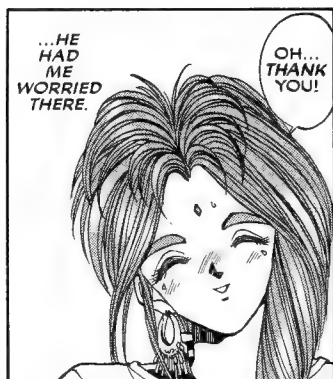
SO
AUTHENTIC!
BETTER
THAN
VIRTUAL
REALITY!

SHARPER
THAN
HIGH-
DEFINITION!

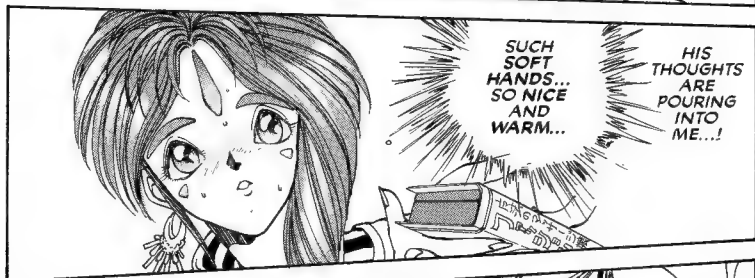
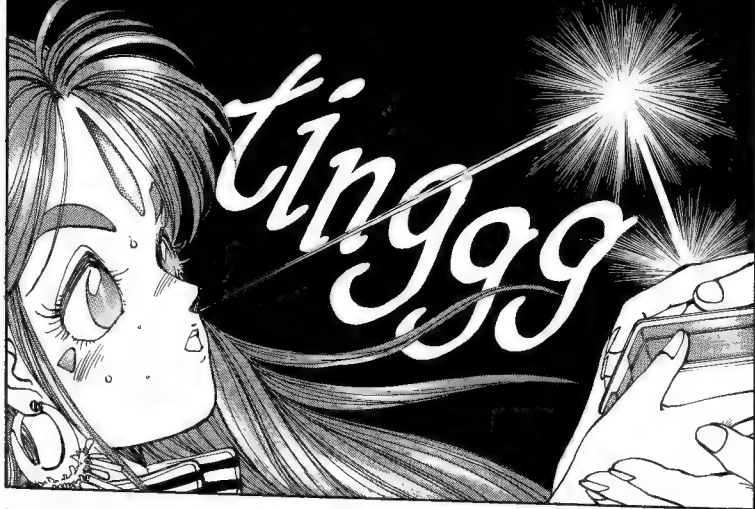


IT...IT'S
LIKE...
LIKE SHE'S
RIGHT
HERE IN
THE ROOM
WITH ME!



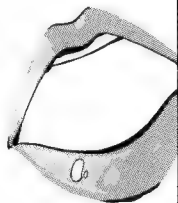






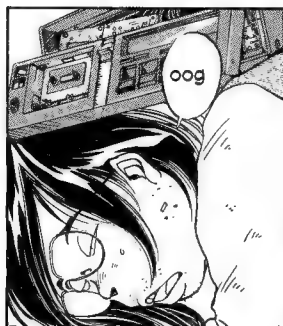


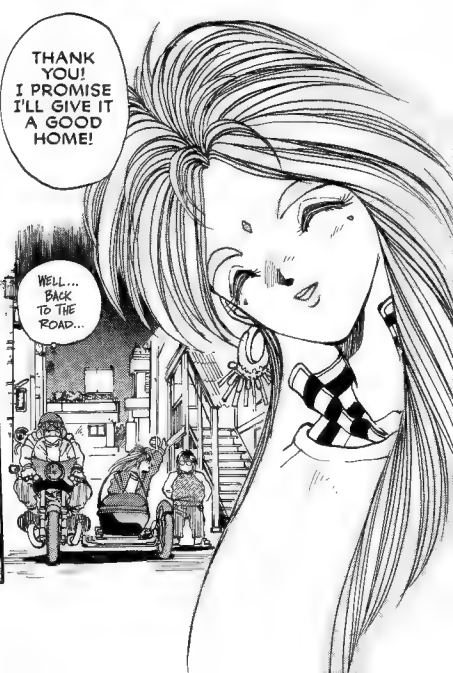
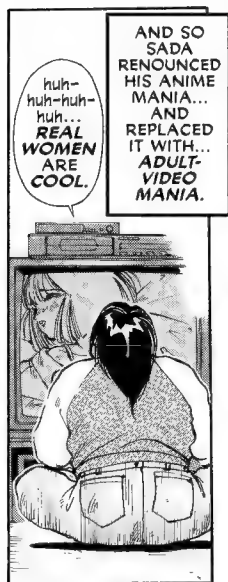
...IS
TASTE!



I USED
ALL MY
POWER
REFORM-
MATTING
THE
TEAPOT!

OH,
NO!!
I...I
CAN'T
EVEN
PUSH
HIM
AWAY!



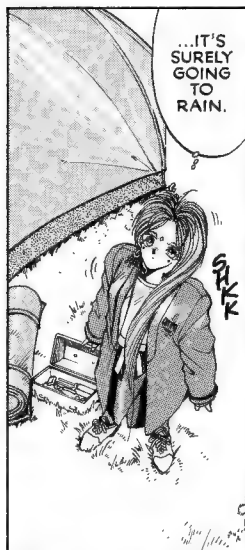


CHAPTER 3

A Man's Home Is His... Temple?







...IT'S
SURELY
GOING
TO
RAIN.

SPLASH

THE
WAY
IT'S
BLOW-
ING...

OH...
SMELL
THAT
BREEZE...



OH,
MAN...
WHAT AM
I GONNA
DO?!

WAIT
A
SEC!

COME
TO THINK
OF IT...
I'VE ONLY
GOT ONE
SLEEPING
BAG.

I MEAN
YEE-
HAW!

WHICH
MEANS...

UH-
OH!

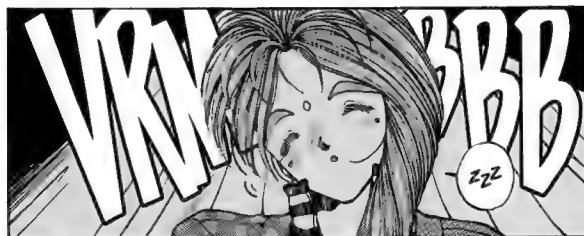
YOU
GOT
IT,
KIDDO!





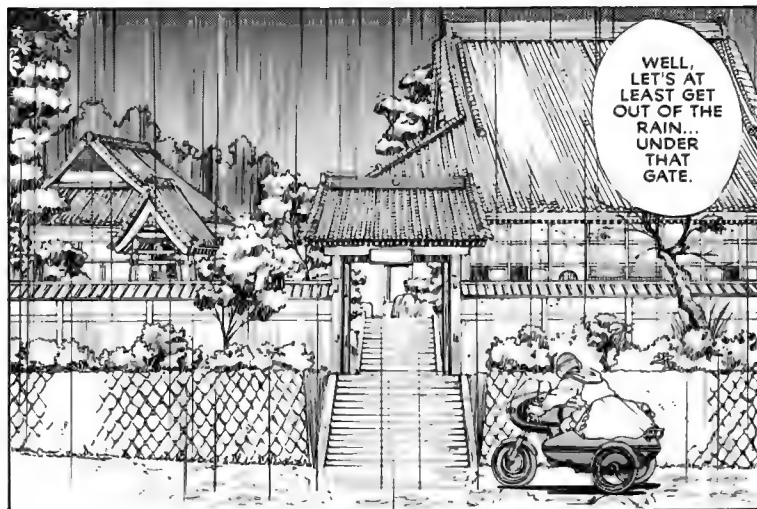


NOW
WHAT DO
I DO?!
THERE'S NO
PLACE LEFT
FOR ME
TO GO!

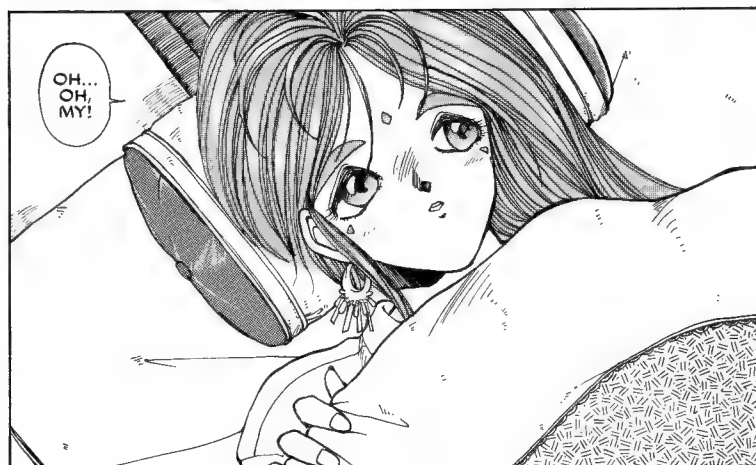
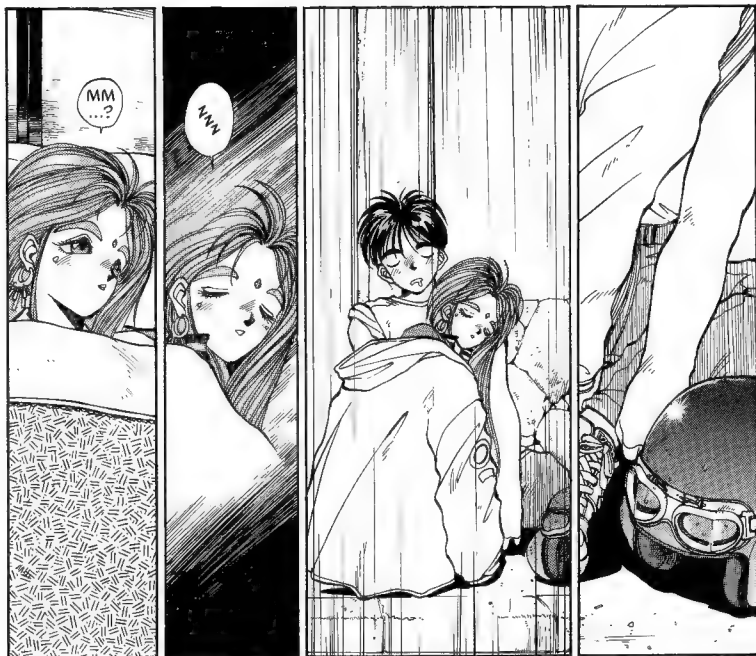


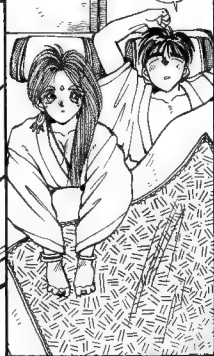
ZZZ

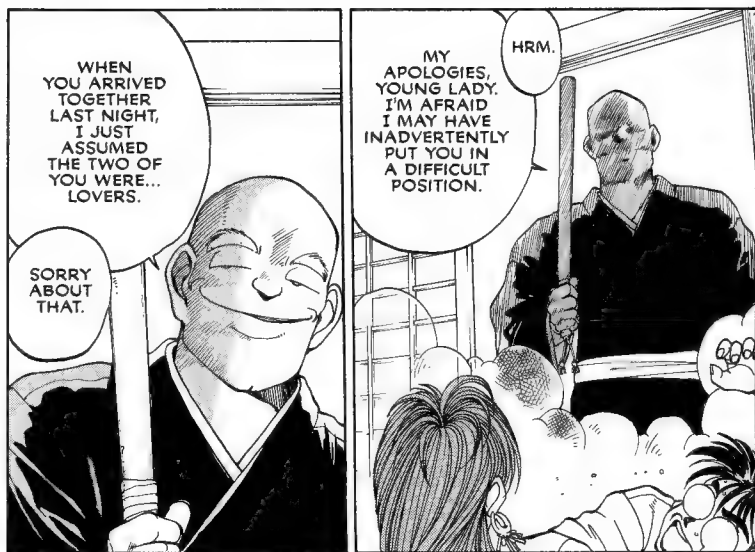
WITH
CHANGING
HER CLOTHES
CONVERTING
THE TEAPOT,
AND USING
HER EMPATHIC
POWERS IN
SUCH A SHORT
PERIOD, SHE'S
DRAINED HER
INTERNAL
ENERGY

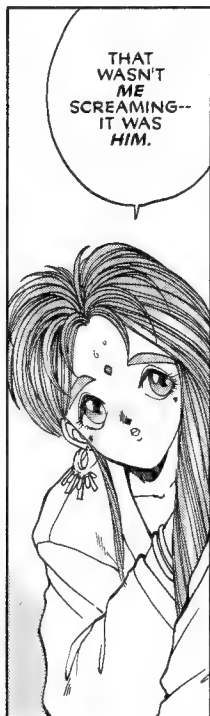
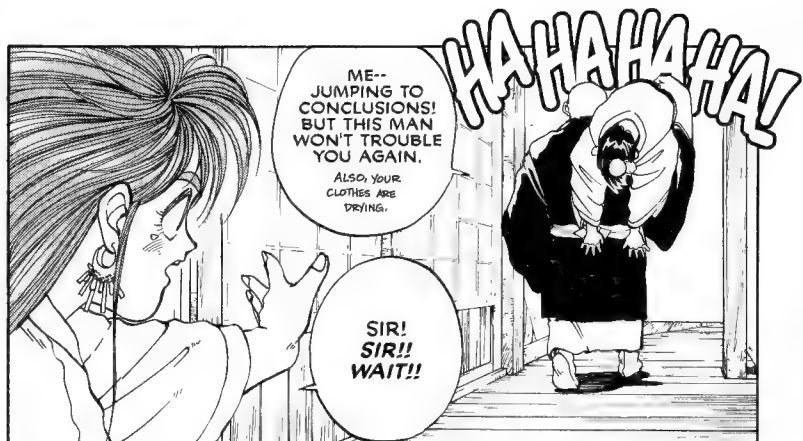


WELL,
LET'S AT
LEAST GET
OUT OF THE
RAIN...
UNDER
THAT
GATE.







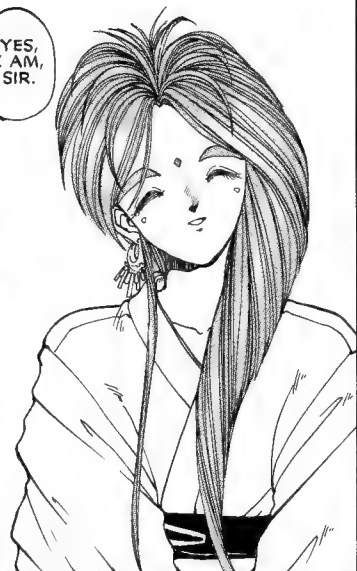


AND
TO GRANT
HIS WISH,
I CAME
DOWN TO
EAR--

YES,
I AM,
SIR.

WHAT
BROUGHT
YOU TO
JAPAN?

YOU
LOOK TO
BE A
FOREIGNER,
MY LADY.



I...
I SEE.

--TO, ER,
DO A
LITTLE
SIGHT-
SEEING!
YEAH,
THAT'S
THE
TICKET!

C'MON,
BELLDANDY!
YOU CAN'T GO
AROUND JUST
TELLING PEOPLE
THE TRUTH
ABOUT WHO
YOU ARE AND
WHY YOU'RE
HERE!

SKSH



...WHAT?

AND
ALSO...

BUT...
I CAN'T
TELL
A *LIE*,
EITHER.



I
DON'T
FEEL ANY
ILL WILL
TOWARDS
US IN
THIS
TEMPLE.

I
BELIEVE
IT'S
SOMEHOW
PROPER
FOR US
TO BE
HERE...
FATE.

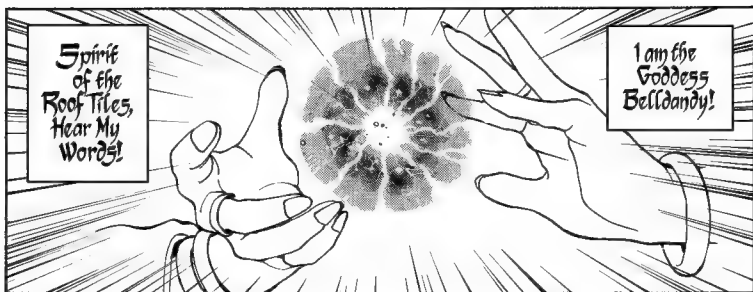
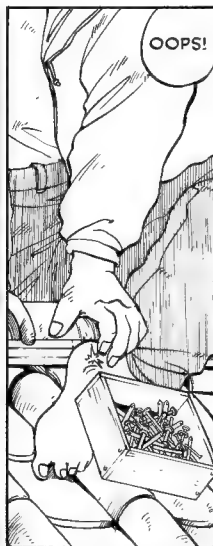


FIX
YOUR OWN
ROOF.
WHY DON'T
YOU?

SHESH.

WELL,
THAT PRIEST'S
GOT NO
HARD FEELINGS
ABOUT
WORKING US
TO DEATH,
THAT'S FOR
SURE.

"ILL
WILL"
...?





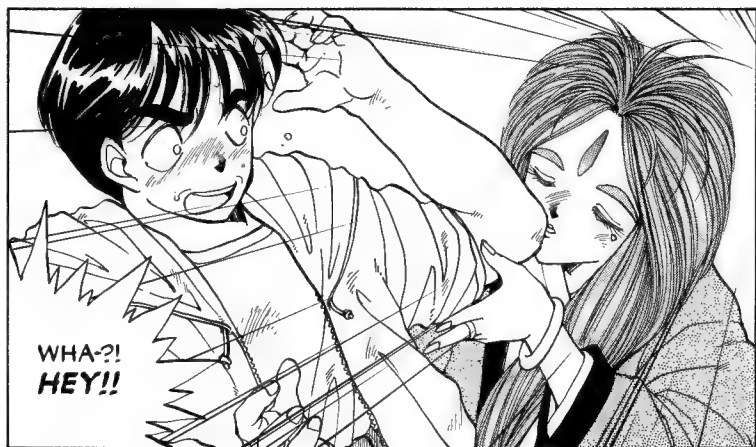
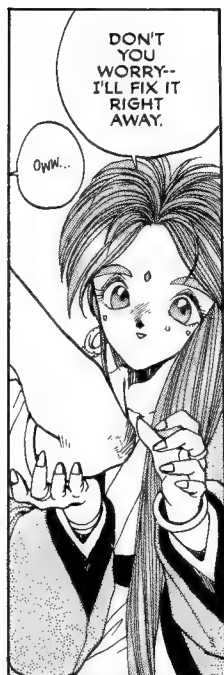
FWNK

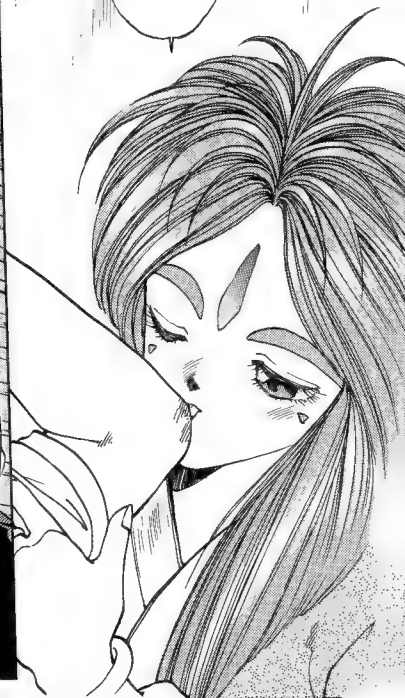
Pop

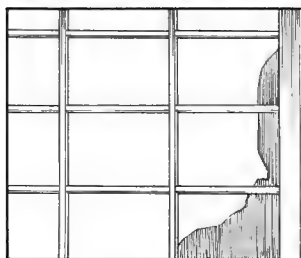
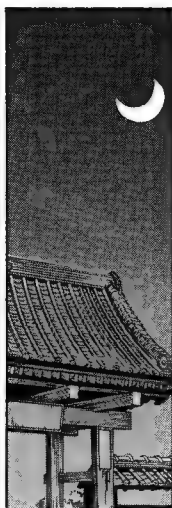
FWNK

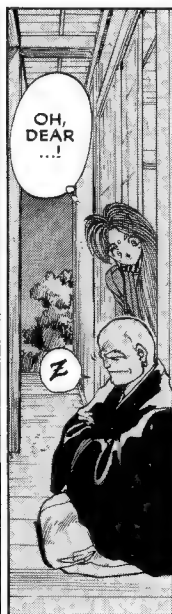
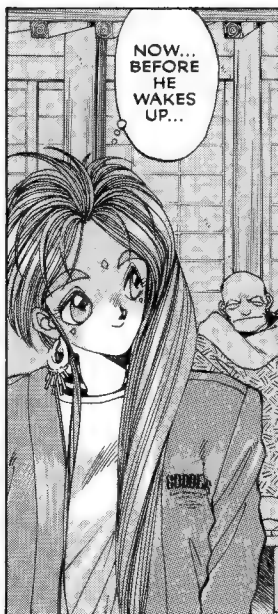
Save
Ye
This
Man!











A black and white manga-style illustration of a young woman with long, flowing hair, smiling and holding a small bird in her hands. She is wearing a jacket and a striped shirt. Several other birds are flying around her, and a speech bubble above her head says "GOOD MORNING, EVERYONE!" with a small heart symbol below it.

AAH
?!







I'VE
NEVER
POLISHED
THE ALTAR
SO WELL!

LOOK
AT
THIS
BRIL-
LIANT
GLOW!

BUT TO
DO SO
MUCH,
SO WELL,
IN SO
LITTLE
TIME...

CLEARLY
SHE IS
NO
DEMON...

...SHE
IS NO
ORDINARY
MORTAL,
EITHER!

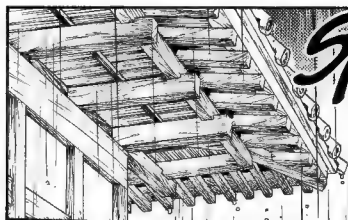
AND
THAT
MARK
ON HER
FOREHEAD...

COULD
IT BE
...?





THE
NEXT
DAY



SKSSSH

KEIICHI!
THE
PRIEST!
HE--



My Lady:
You have awakened me to
my spiritual imperfection.
I have set forth for India to
study the true Buddhism as
you yourself have so clearly
done. I know it is presumptuous
of me, but please use the
temple as you wish
until I return.

A TRUE
MASTER OF
JUMPING
TO CONCLUSIONS,
INDEED.



OH, DEAR...
I FORGOT
TO TELL THE
TILES THEY
CAN GO
BACK NOW.

YOU SEE,
THERE'S
NO ROOF
ANYMORE.



PLP

SPISH

SPT

NOT
QUITE,
BELL-
DANDY.

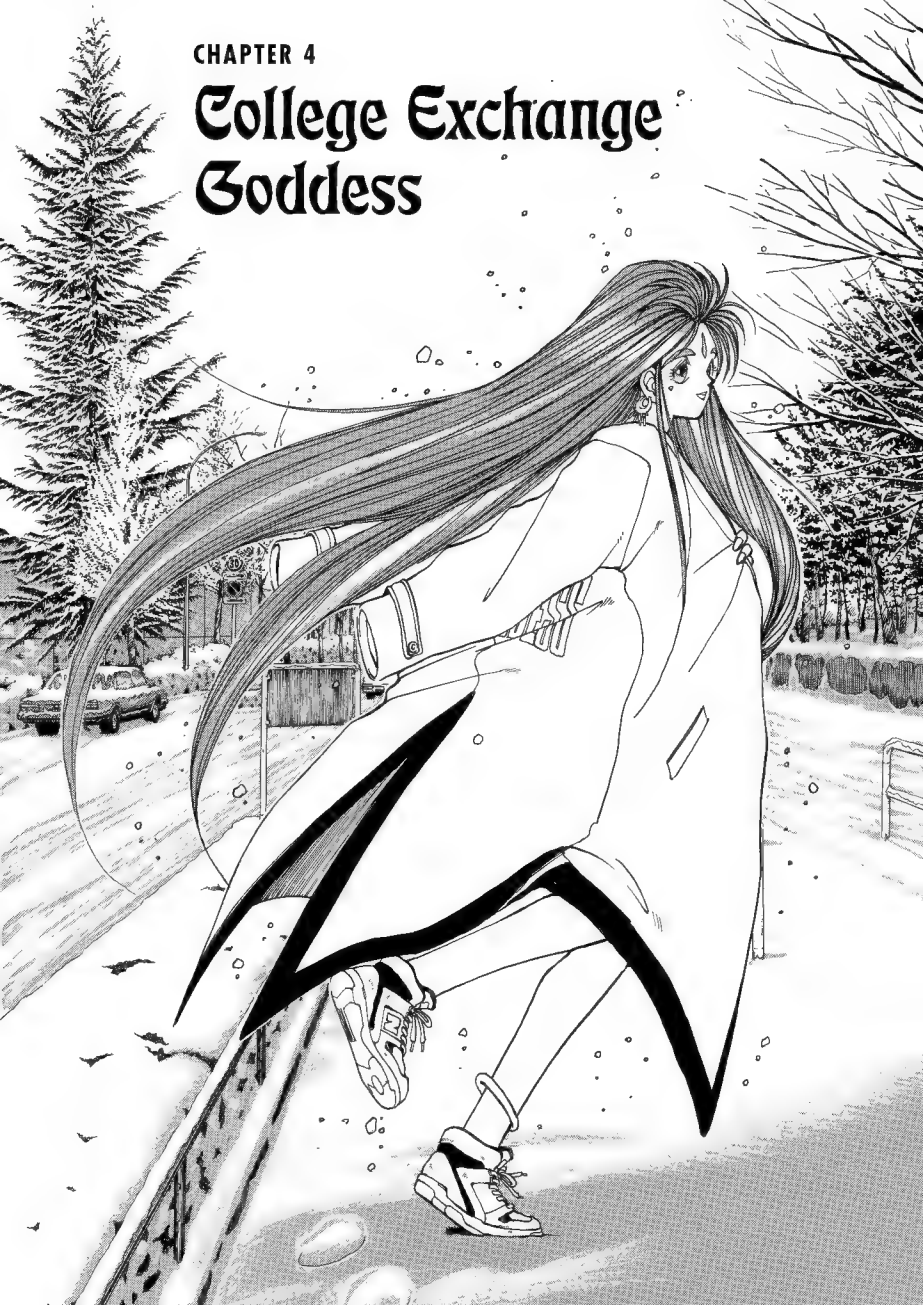
HM.

WELL...
AT LEAST
WE HAVE
A ROOF
OUT OF
THE RAIN!



CHAPTER 4

College Exchange Goddess



I
COULDN'T
TURN
HER
DOWN.

...BUT I'VE
NEVER
SEEN AN
EARTH
SCHOOL
BEFORE.

I'M
SORRY...
MAKING
YOU
BRING ME
ALONG
LIKE
THIS...

WHOA!

CAMPUS MAP

...THIS
IS BAD.
SHE
STANDS
OUT
LIKE A
SEARCH-
LIGHT.

I
JUST
COULDN'T,
BUT...

I CUT HIS
LECTURE
LAST WEEK
TO GO HEAR
PROFESSOR
KAKUTA
INSTEAD,
SO I'M ON
OZAWA'S
BLACKLIST
ALREADY.



AND I'VE
GOT THAT
MANIAC
OZAWA FOR
MY FIRST
CLASS--
HE WATCHES
ATTENDANCE
LIKE A
HAWK.

KAKUTA'S
GOT THE JUMP
ON OZAWA IN
THE RACE TO
DESIGN A
CERAMIC
ENGINE, AND
THE WHOLE
CAMPUS
KNOWS IT.
OZAWA'S
CONSUMED
WITH ENVY.

KAKUTA'S
CERAMIC
ENGINE
IS NOTHING
BUT AN
OVERGROWN
FLOWER
POT.

I AM
DR.
OZAWA.

KAKUTA
HERE.
CALL ME
DOC.
HEH, HEH.

YOU
WISH!
I AM THE
MASTER OF
CERAMIC
TECHNO-
LOGY.



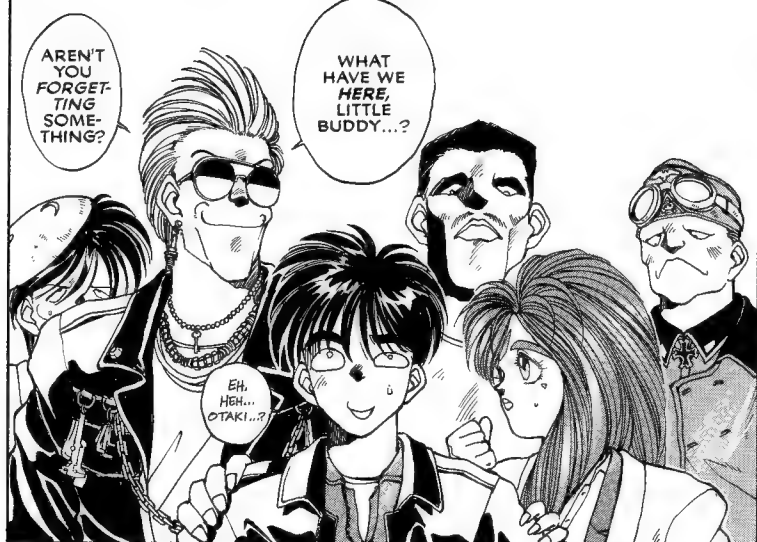
MORI-
SATO...
MY
BOY.



HMM...I
CAN'T SNEAK
HER INTO
OZAWA'S
CLASS. HE'LL
SPOT BELL-
DANDY FOR
SURE.

LET'S
GO!

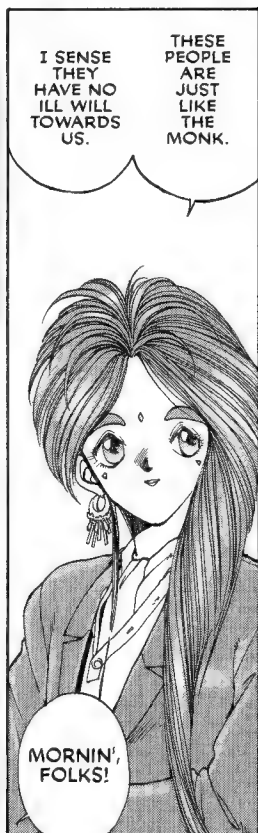
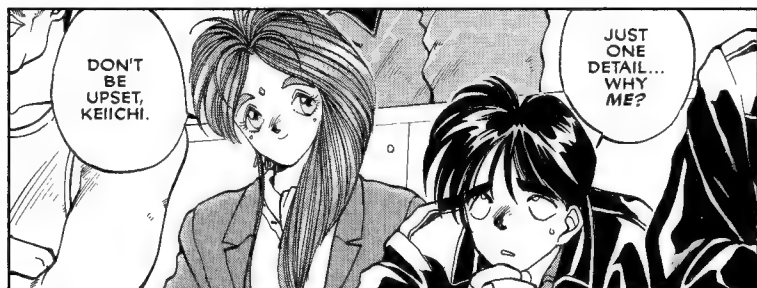
THAP





LOOK! ♥ THIS WAY! ♥ CHECK HER OUT!









**!?!
WHAT?!
KAKUTA'S
CLASS
IS
PACKED!**

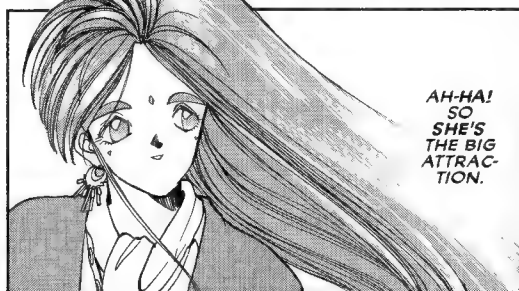
SO IN THIS
CASE, THE
ENERGY OUTPUT
COEFFICIENT
WILL

SUPER-
SABE
SUPER-
GENIUS!



I CAN'T
BELIEVE
NOBODY
SHOWED
UP...

??



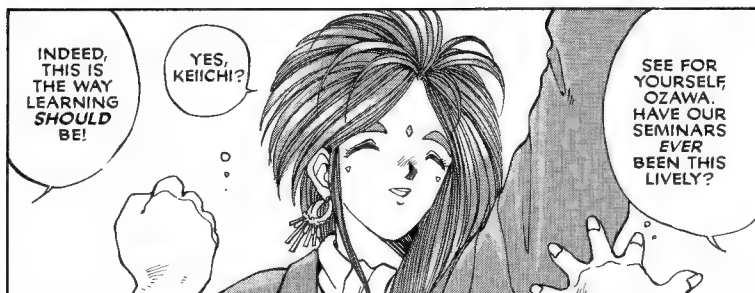
AH-HA!
SO
SHE'S
THE BIG
ATTRAC-
TION.



NEVER
SEEN
HER
AROUND
CAMPUS
BEFORE...

FIENDISHLY
CLEVER!
BUT YOU
WON'T
GET AWAY
WITH IT!

KAKUTA!
MUST YOU
STOOP TO
HIRING A
BEAUTIFUL
GIRL TO
SIT IN ON
YOUR CLASS--
JUST TO
BOOST
ATTENDANCE?





...AND
HAVE HER
KICKED
STRAIGHT
OFF THIS
CAMPUS!

BAH!
YOU OLD
FOOL!
I'LL DO
IT MYSELF!
I'LL GET
PROOF...

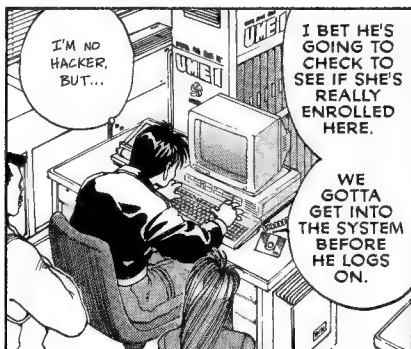


HEADS UP
GUYS!
OZAWA'S ON
THE MOVE!

HUH
--?!



TAK
TAKKA
TAK



I'M NO
HACKER,
BUT...

I BET HE'S
GOING TO
CHECK TO
SEE IF SHE'S
REALLY
ENROLLED
HERE.

WE
GOTTA
GET INTO
THE SYSTEM
BEFORE
HE LOGS
ON.



DAT'S
BAD.
OZAWA
DON'T
NEVER
GIVE UP...

All
He Who
Would
Obstruct
My
Path...

~(path)~

IT
LOCKED
ME
OUT!
DAMN--

YUH BETTER
FIND A WAY
T' CRACK DAT
PASSWORD,
MORISATO--
OR WE--
MEANIN' YOU--
IS BUSTED!

NO
PRESSURE

Info
My Hand
Place
Thee Thy
Key!

...Open
Unfo
Me
Your
Door!

HEY!
I GOT
IT!

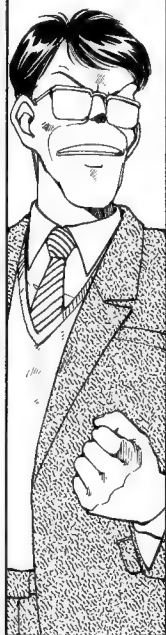
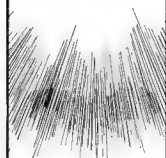
RIGHT!
NOW LET
ME JUST
UPLOAD
THIS--



BUT
WHO?
WHO IS
THIS
MYSTERY
WOMAN
HE'LL GO
TO ANY
LENGTHS
TO
PROTECT?

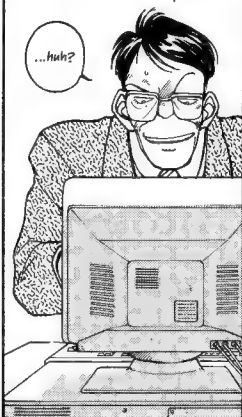


MOCKING
ME! IT'S
AS IF HE
DARES
ME TO
EXPOSE
HIM!



ALL RIGHT,
KAKUTA,
IT SHOULDN'T
TAKE LONG
TO PROVE
YOUR FRAUD...

...huh?



WH...
WHAT
THE--?!





HE
GONNA
LEAF
THROUGH
DAT PILE
ALL
NIGHT?

POOR
MAN!



HA!
BUT HE
FORGETS--
EVERYTHING'S
ARCHIVED
SOMEWHERE
IN THIS
GARGANTUAN
STACK OF
THREE-RING
BINDERS!
somewhere...



I FEEL
SO
SORRY
FOR HIM.

CAN'T
WE
JUST
STOP
THIS
NOW?



THESE
ARE, LIKE,
OBLIGATORY
CAMPUS
PRANKS!

WE'VE
GONE
TOO FAR
TO BACK
DOWN
NOW.

ARE
YOU
KID-
DING?

OH,
DEAR...



??
WHO
COULD
THAT
BE?

RR
RING



ONLY
FIVE
MORE
BINDERS
TO GO!
I'LL SHOW
YOU,
KAKUTA!

Yeah

FLIP
FLIP
FLIP
FLIP



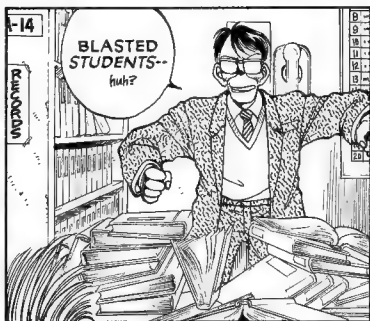
VNWHIP
VNWHIP
VNWHIP
VNWHIP

WHAT
THE--?!
CRANK
CALL!



ARRG
!!

BACK
TA TH'
STARTIN'
LINE, EH?

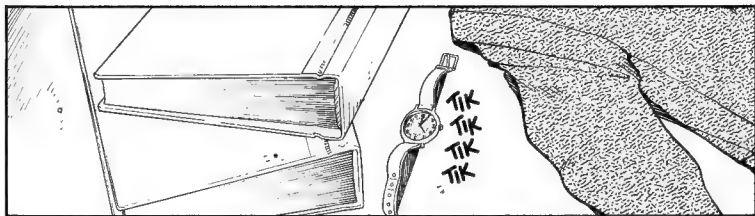


BLASTED
STUDENTS--
huh?

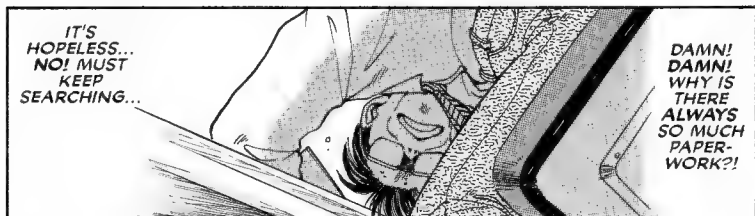


BUT I'LL
NEVER
GIVE UP!
EVEN IF
I HAVE
TO GO
THROUGH
EVERY
BOOK
ALL OVER
AGAIN!

I CAN'T
BELIEVE
I FELL
FOR IT!
THE
OLDEST
TRICK
IN THE
BOOK!
FOOL!



TIK
TIK
TIK
TIK



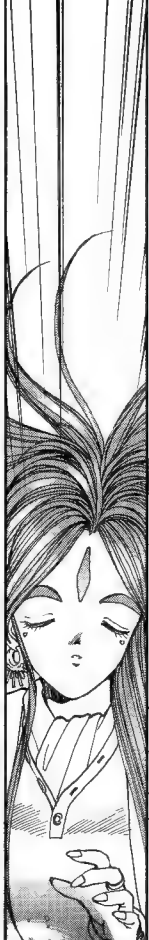
IT'S
HOPELESS...
NO! MUST
KEEP
SEARCHING...

DAMN!
DAMN!
WHY IS
THERE
ALWAYS
SO MUCH
PAPER-
WORK?!

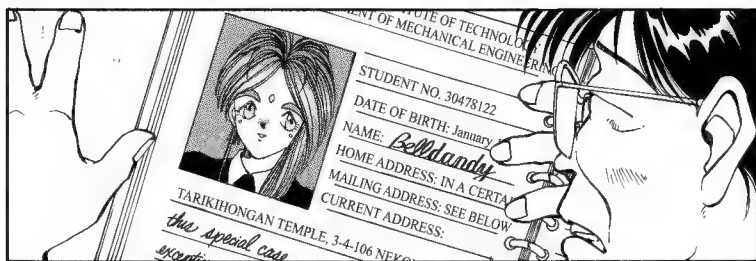


MUSTN'T
GIVE UP...
MUSTN'T...
MUST...
sleep...

ZZZZ



I'M SO
SORRY TO
PUT YOU
TO THAT
TROUBLE.
PLEASE
FORGIVE ME,
DOCTOR
OZAWA!





CHAPTER 5

Those Whom Goddess
Hath Joined Together,
Let No Woman Put Asunder



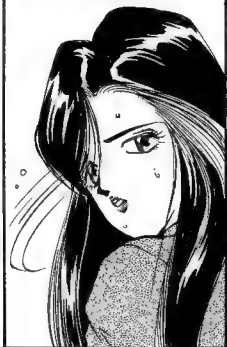
SAYOKO MISHIMA, SOPHOMORE
NEKOMI INSTITUTE OF
TECHNOLOGY
MAJOR: ELECTRONICS
ACADEMICS: TOP OF THE CLASS
LOOKS: TOP OF THE SCHOOL
STATUS: QUEEN OF THE CAMPUS

AVERAGE
NO. OF MEN
SURROUND-
ING HER:
BETWEEN
30 AND
50

PLEASE!
GO OUT
WITH ME!



THE MONARCHY
IS IN DANGER.

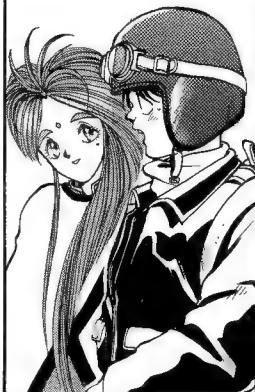




WAIT A
MINUTE...
I'VE SEEN
THAT
LOSER
BEFORE!

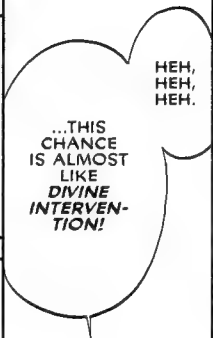
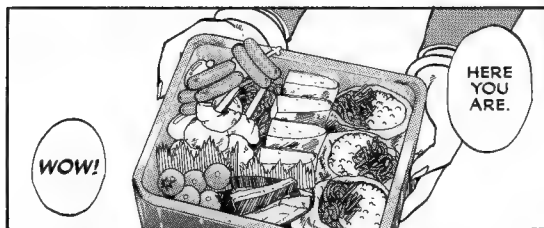
THAT'S
STRANGE...
HE DOES
LOOK
LIKE A
LOSER...

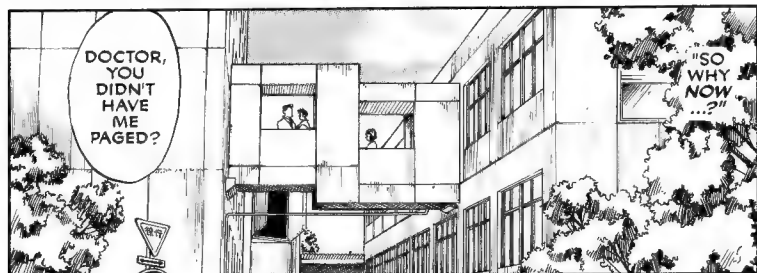
AH,
HA.

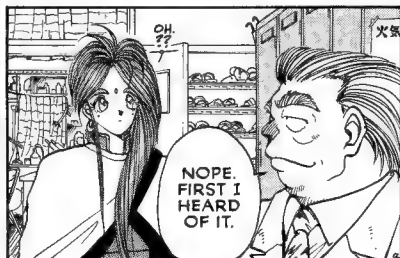


HMPH! IT'S
BEEN LIKE
THIS EVER SINCE
THIS SHE
SHOWED UP!
WHO IS
THIS MYSTERIOUS
PEON THAT
THREATENS MY
SUPREMACY?

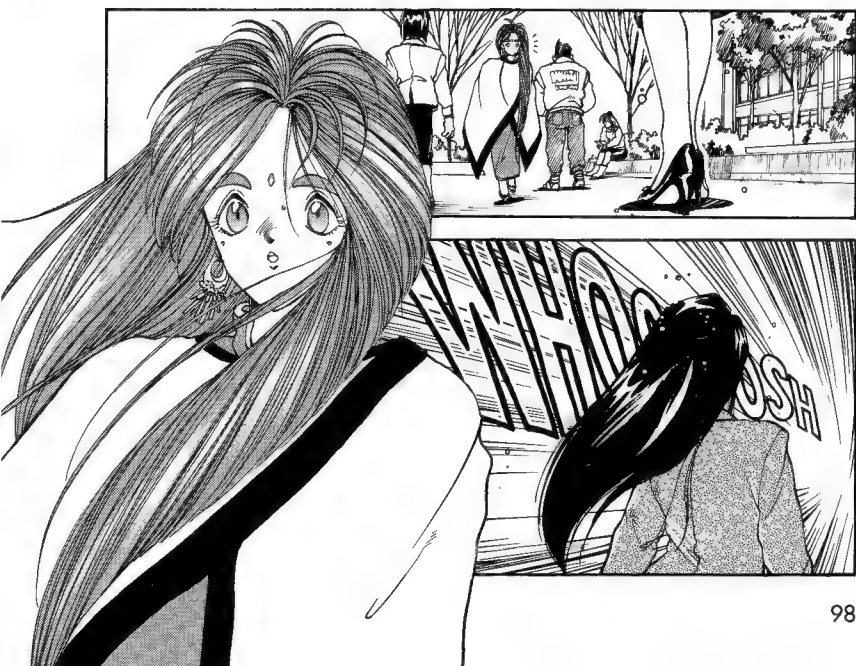


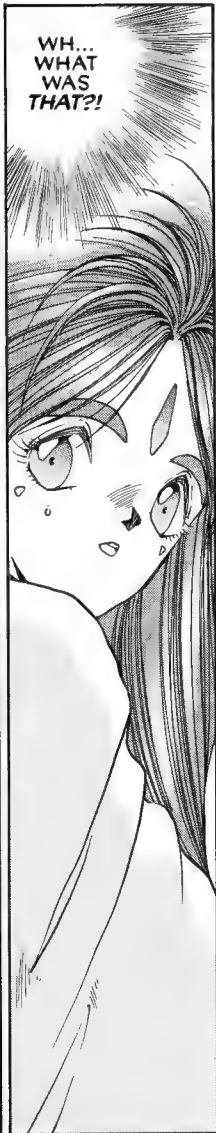
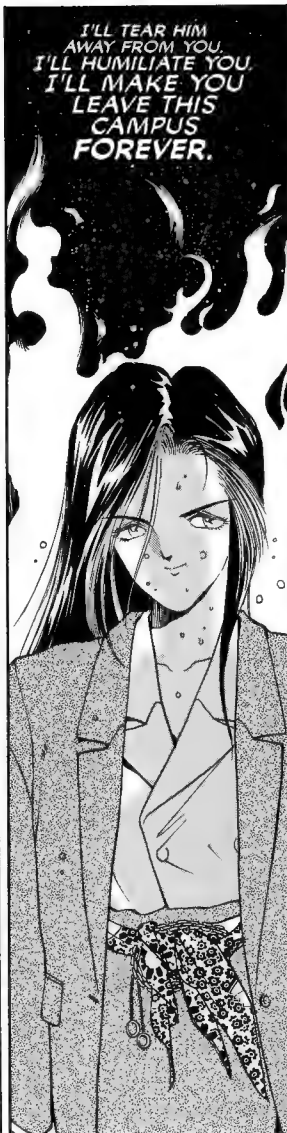












WHEN
THE FORCE
TRYING TO
SEPARATE
US IS
WEAK,
THEN IT IS
WEAK.

THE
SYSTEM
FORCE
DOESN'T
ALWAYS
WORK AT
THE SAME
ENERGY
LEVEL.

WHEN IT'S
OPERATING
AT A LOW
LEVEL, IT
CAN'T REALLY
DO MUCH
HARM.



BUT
WHEN
THE
FORCE IS
STRONG,
THEN IT IS
STRONG,
TOO.

BUT IF HER
DESIRE TO
SEPARATE
US SHOULD
STRENGTHEN
FURTHER...

WHY
NOT?

WANNA
BET
YOUR
BEEMER?

I CAN
MAKE A
FAWNING
SLAVE OF
THAT WIMP
IN THREE
DAYS
FLAT.

HOW'D
IT
GO?

SO? HOW'D
IT GO?

...SHE
COULD
PUT
HERSELF
IN
REAL
JEOP-
ARDY!

SAY...
YOU WANT
ANY
OF THIS
LUNCH?

...I JUST
FELT THE
FORCE GET
**STRONG-
ER!**

WANT
TO
BET
ON
IT?



FROM
THAT
DAY ON,
SAYOKO'S
ASSAULT...
WAS
RELENT-
LESS.

honk
honk





ENERGU
SHIELD!



WHAT
THE--
IT'S
OVER-
HEATING!

...ALL
BELL-
DANDY
COULD
DO WAS
WEAKEN
ITS
EFFECT.

HM?

...WHAT'S
GOING
ON
HERE?



SAY...

Sigh

...JUST
IN
TIME.

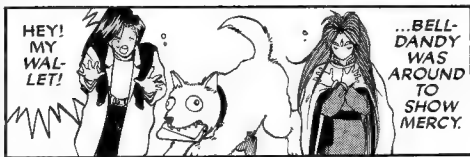
THE
FORCE
WAS
MORE
POWER-
FUL
THAN
EXPECT-
ED...

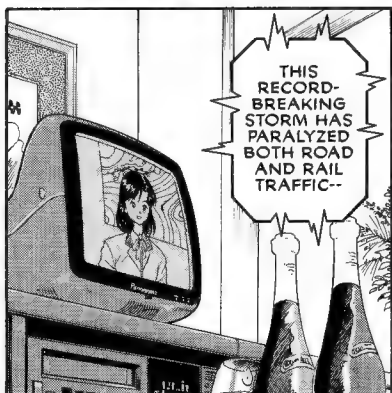
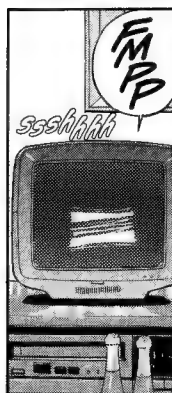
STOP!
DON'T!

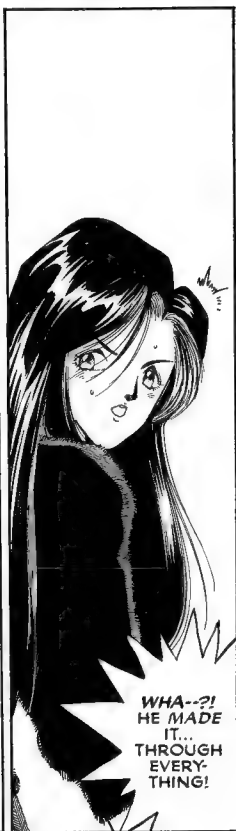
KEIICHI...
WANT TO
GO TO
DINNER?
MY
TREAT!

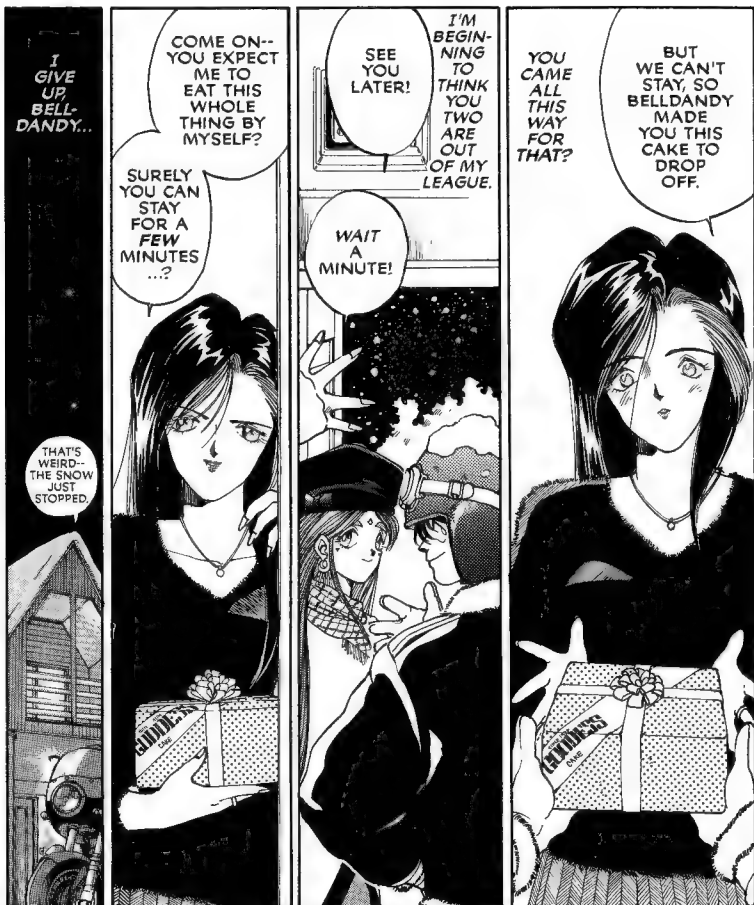
BUT
SAYOKO...
DIDN'T
KNOW
WHEN
TO
GIVE
UP.

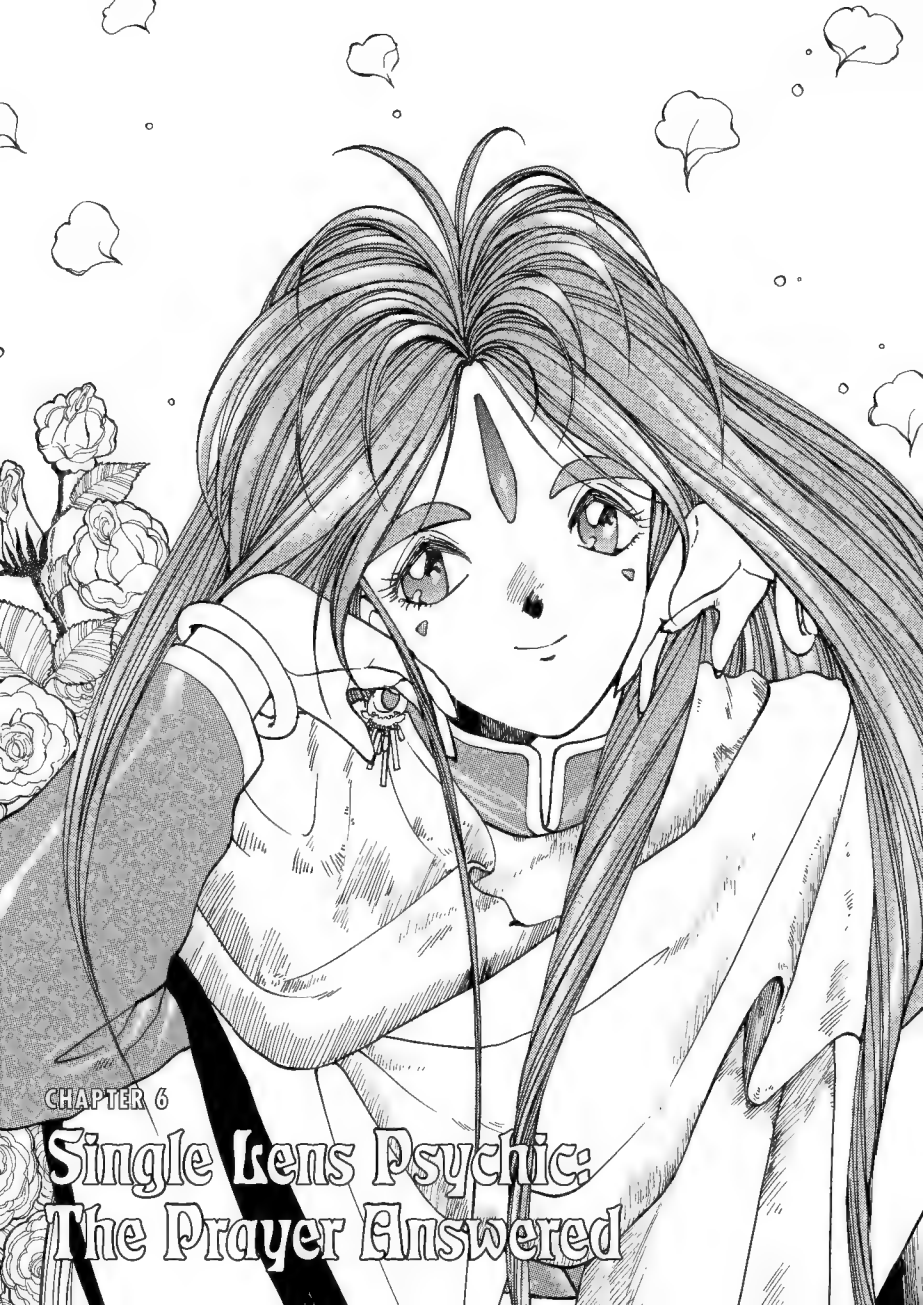






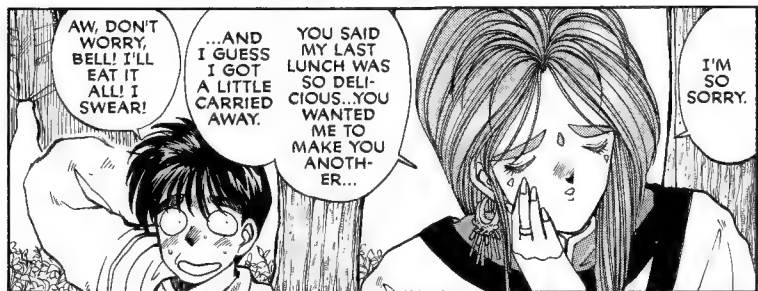
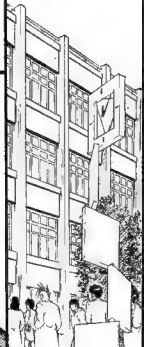
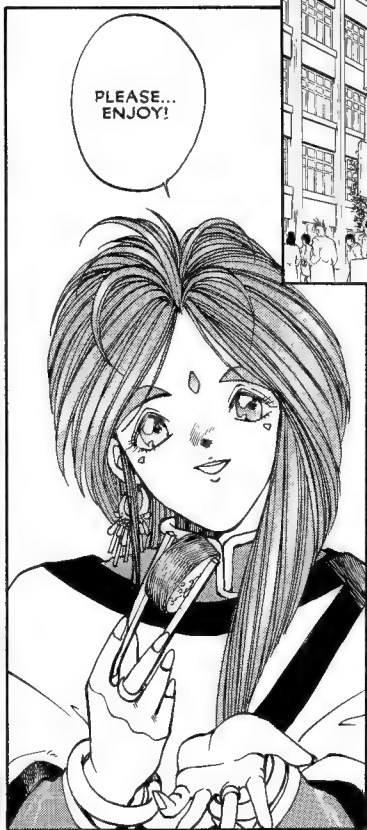


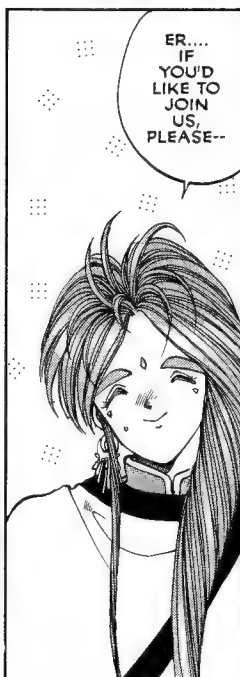
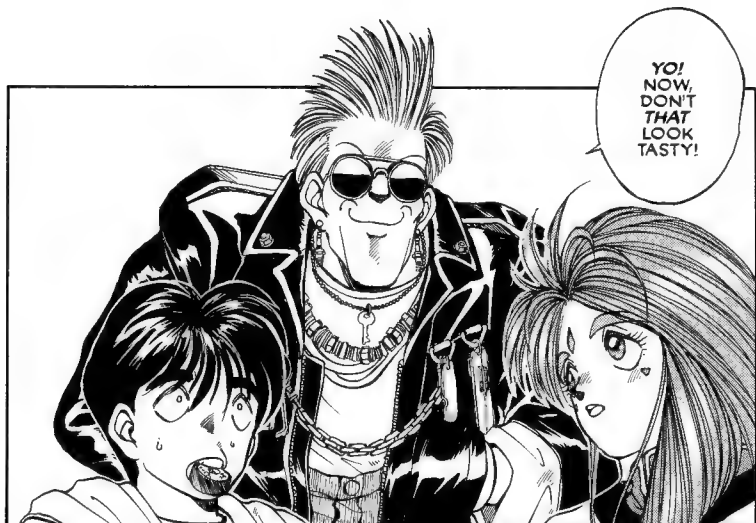


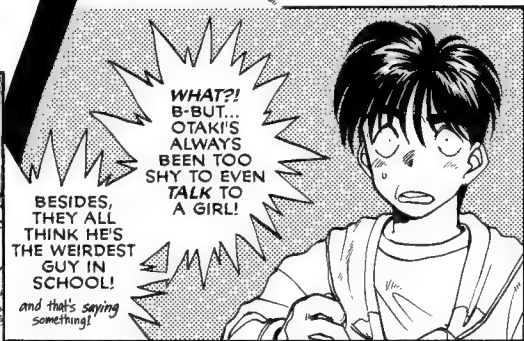
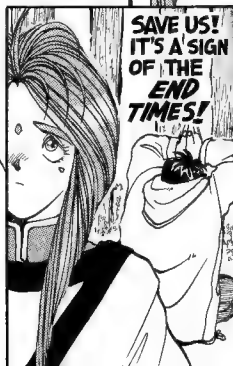


CHAPTER 6

Single Lens Psychic: The Prayer Answered

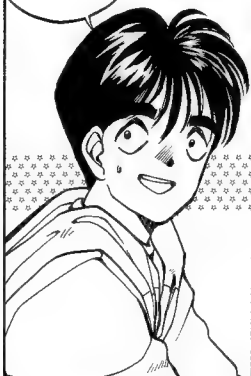








WAIT...
LET'S
FIND OUT
WHO IT
IS!



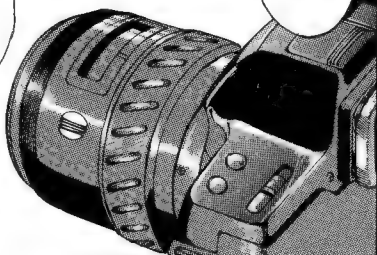
IT'S A
SINGLE-
LENS
PSYCHIC
CAMERA!

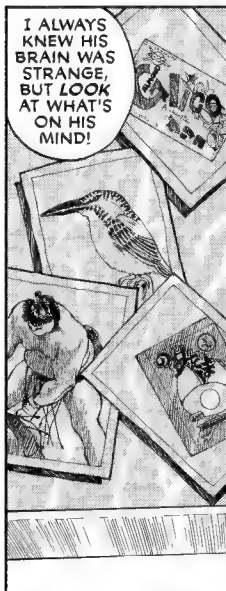
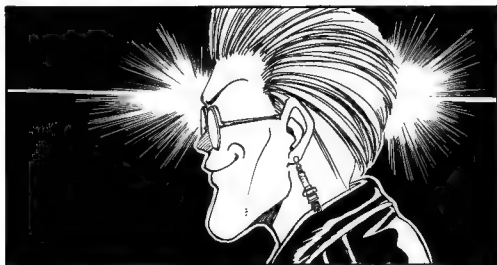
YES,
HOW
DID
YOU
KNOW?

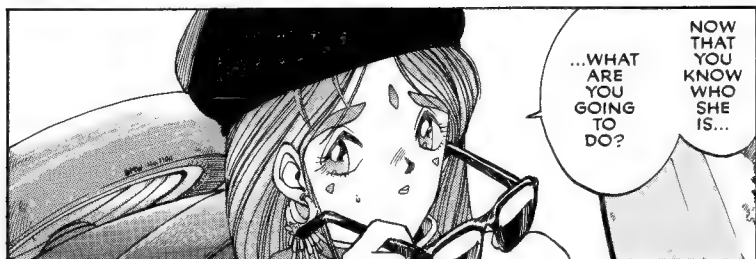


FOLLOW
OTAKI
AROUND
WITH
THAT...?

HUH...
SO YOU'RE
GONNA
PHOTO-
GRAPH
WHO'S
ON HIS
MIND?







...CAN
YOU LEND
ME SOME
OF YOUR
POWER,
BELLDANDY?

SO...

WELL...
THE TRUTH
IS IT'S
NONE
OF MY
BUSINESS...

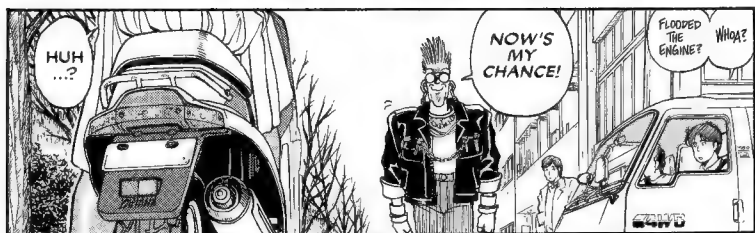
BUT
I GUESS
I SORT
OF OWE
THE
GUY...

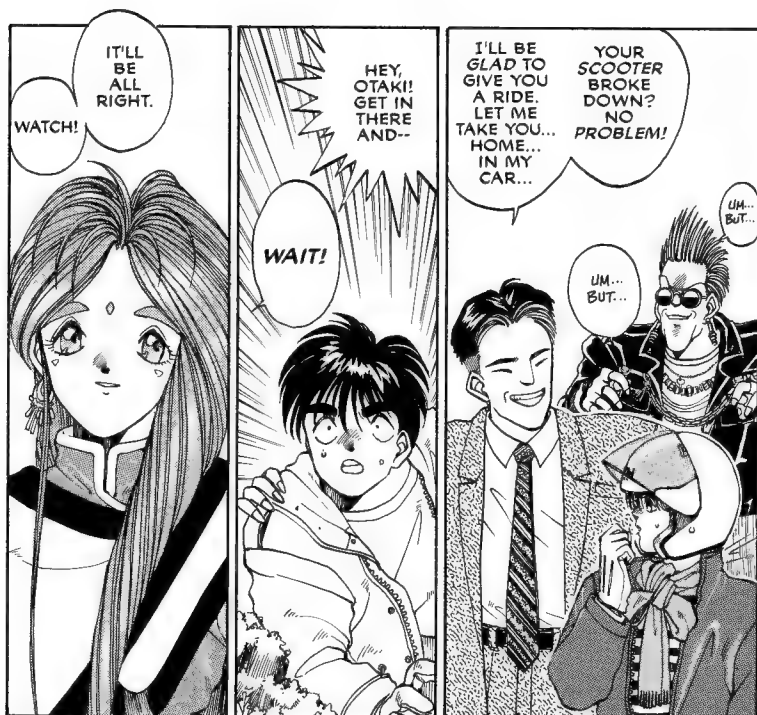
AAH...
IT'S
HER!

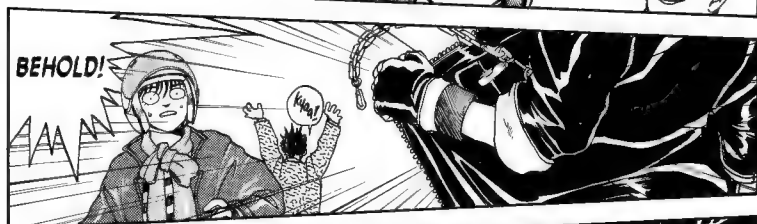
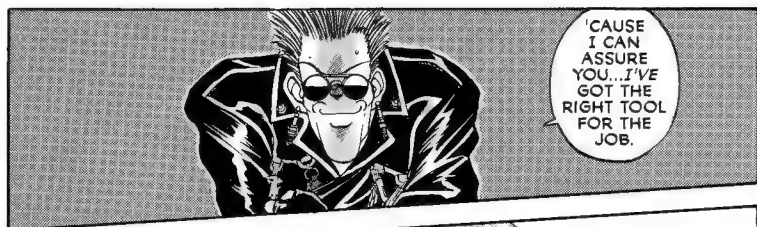
KIKI
VREE
VREE

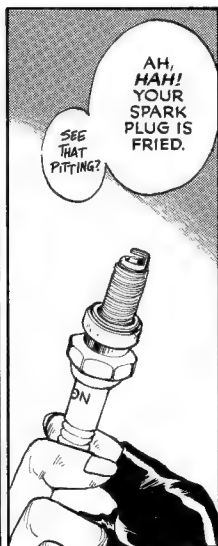
Oh
Internal
Fires!
Burn
Thou
Over
High...

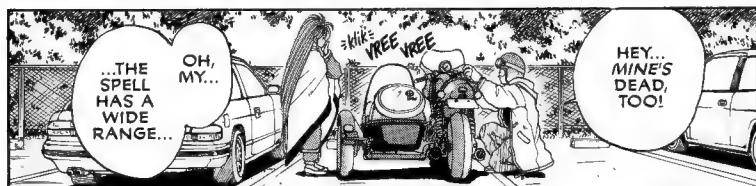
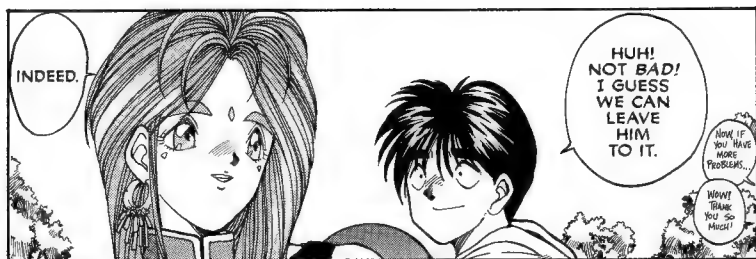
fwip



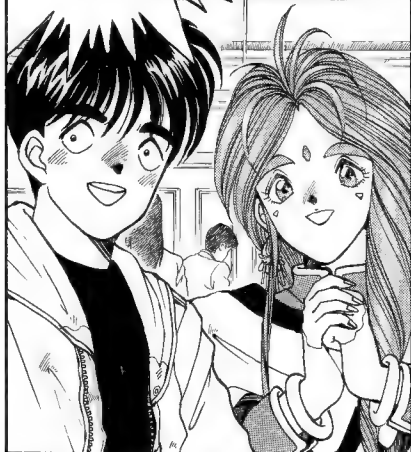








NO WAY!
SHE INVITED
YOU HOME
FOR DINNER
ALREADY?!



YOU
GOT
A
SEC...?

YEAH...
SURE.



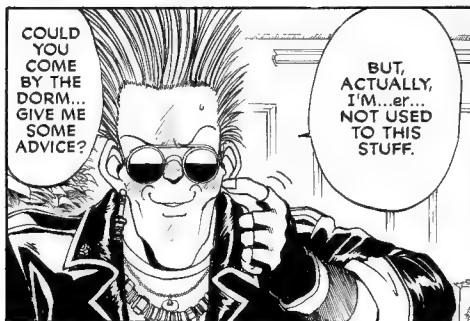
YEAH.

BUT THAT'S
GREAT,
OTAKI!
YOU'RE
MAKING
PROGRESS!



COULD
YOU
COME
BY THE
DORM...
GIVE ME
SOME
ADVICE?

BUT,
ACTUALLY,
I'M...er...
NOT USED
TO THIS
STUFF.



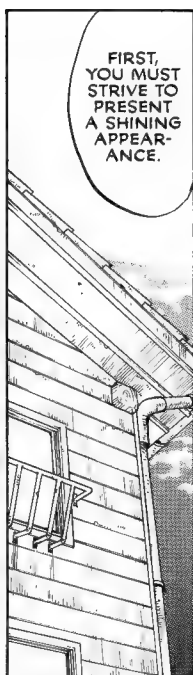


HMM.
"NOBLE AND
ELEGANT"...
"LIKE A
KNIGHT"...
OKAY, HOLD
ON A
SEC.



...A
VALIANT
IMAGE,
LIKE A
LATTER-
DAY
KNIGHT.

NOBLE
AND
ELEGANT...



FIRST,
YOU MUST
STRIVE TO
PRESENT
A SHINING
APPEAR-
ANCE.



HE KEEPS
ALL HIS
GEAR IN
THE OTHER
ROOM.



WHERE
DID HE
GO...?



YO!



NOW,
WHEN YOU
GET THERE,
HAND HER
THESE
FLOWERS AND
SAY, "THANK
YOU VERY
MUCH FOR
INVITING
ME."

THEN
JUST BE
YOUR-
SELF!

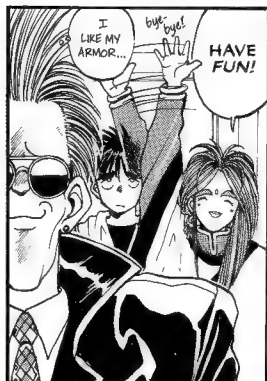


I
MEAN...
BETTER
THAN MY
ARMOR...?

NOW, BELL-
DANDY...
ARE YOU
SURE
THIS IS
THE BEST
THING?



HONESTLY,
IT'S
PERFECT.



I
LIKE MY
ARMOR...

bye-bye!

HAVE
FUN!



REMOVE
YOUR
BOOTS
AND
GAUNT-
LETS.



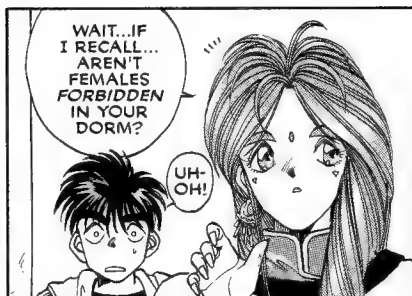
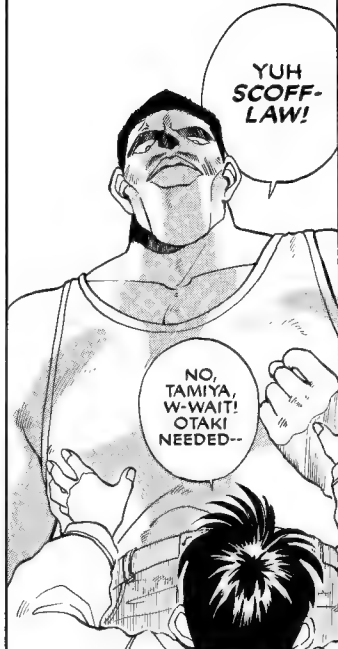
HA, HA!
ISN'T
SHE
GREAT?

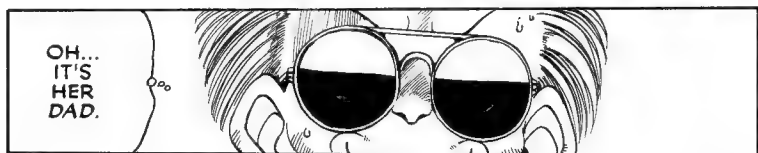
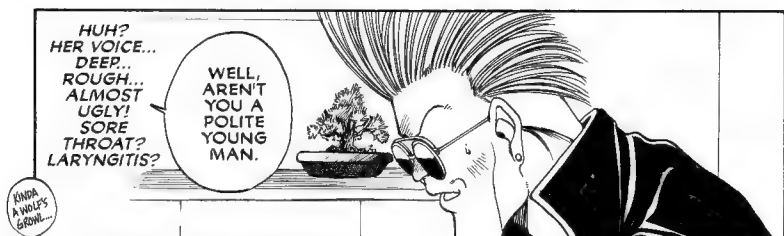
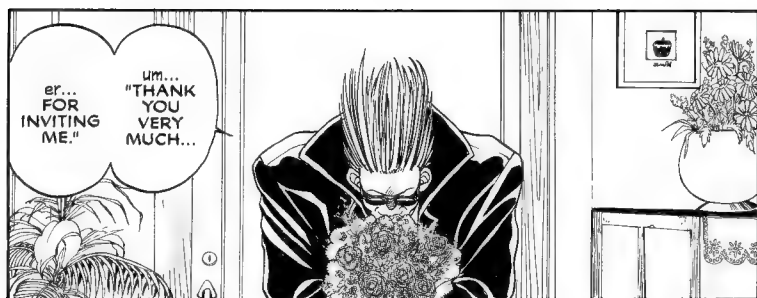
OKAY!
I'M
OFF,
THEN!

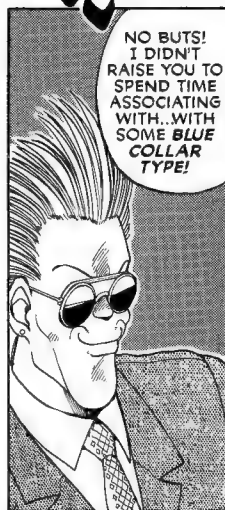
WOW!
YOU
REALLY
CAME
PRE-
PARED!

PLEASE
DON'T
USE
YOUR
POWER
LIKE THAT,
BELL!

BEST
OF
LUCK!



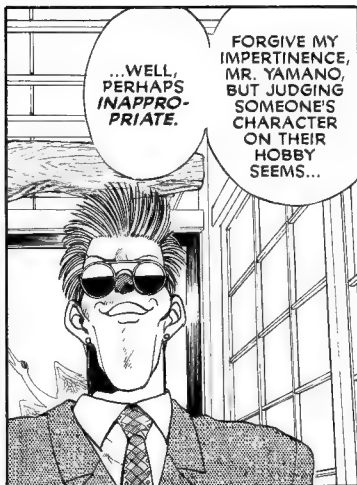






FATHER,
PLEASE!
YOU--

WHAT?!
HOW
DARE
YOU
LECTURE
ME?!

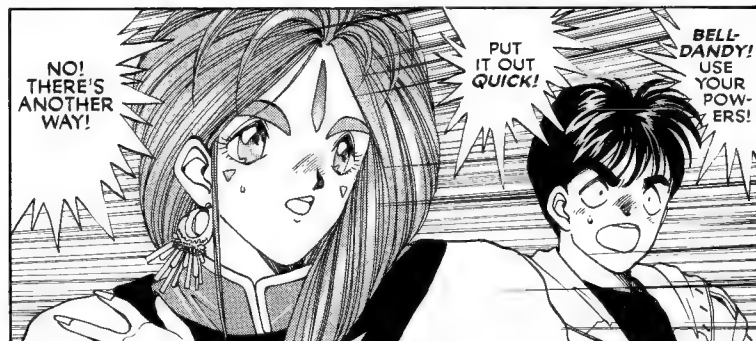


...WELL,
PERHAPS
INAPPRO-
PRIATE.

FORGIVE MY
IMPERTINENCE,
MR. YAMANO,
BUT JUDGING
SOMEONE'S
CHARACTER
ON THEIR
HOBBY
SEEMS...



OH, NO!
THE
OIL'S
ON
FIRE!



NO!
THERE'S
ANOTHER
WAY!

PUT
IT OUT
QUICK!

BELL-
DANDY!
USE
YOUR
POW-
ERS!

WAIT!
DON'T
USE
WATER!

EK!
FWNP

Dance Thee
Oh Spirits
of the Flame!
Your Power
Do I Now
Unleash...

OH DEAR...
THAT MIGHT
HAVE BEEN
A LITTLE
CLOSE.

SSSHHHHH



HMM...THERE
I STOOD WHILE
MY DAUGHTER
WAS IN PERIL,
WHILE THIS
BRAVE AND
RESOURCEFUL
YOUNG MAN...



TREAT
HER
WELL!

YES, I CAN
ALLOW MY
DAUGHTER
TO BE
YOUR BRIDE
WITHOUT
FEAR.

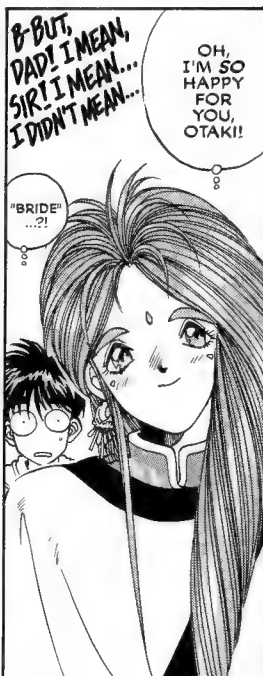
FORGIVE
ME, SON!
I NOW SEE
THAT YOU'RE
A TRUE MAN...
VALIANT...A
LATTER-
DAY
KNIGHT.



NOW
WHAT
AM I
SUPPOSED
TO DO?!

MORI-
SATO!
YOU GOTTA
HELP
ME!!

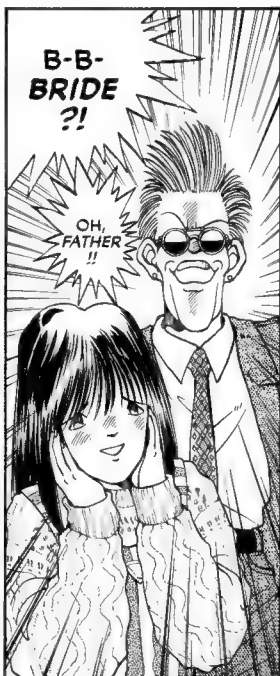
I'VE
HELPED
YOU...
ENOUGH
FOR ONE
DAY.



B-BUT, DAD! I MEAN,
SIR! I MEAN...
I DIDN'T MEAN...

OH,
I'M SO
HAPPY
FOR
YOU,
OTAKI!

"BRIDE"
...?!



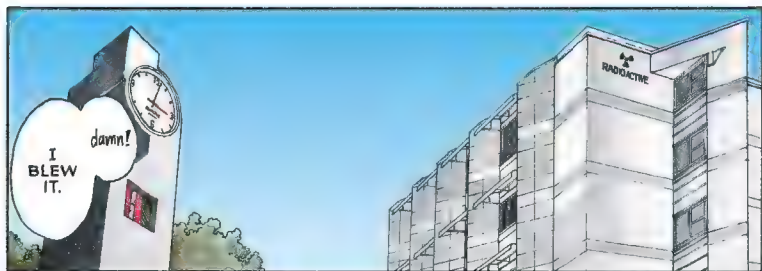
B-B-
BRIDE
?!

OH,
FATHER
!!



CHAPTER 7

Lullaby of Love



I BLEW IT.

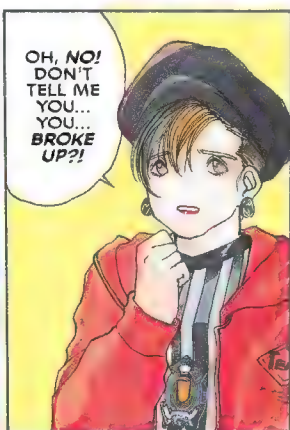
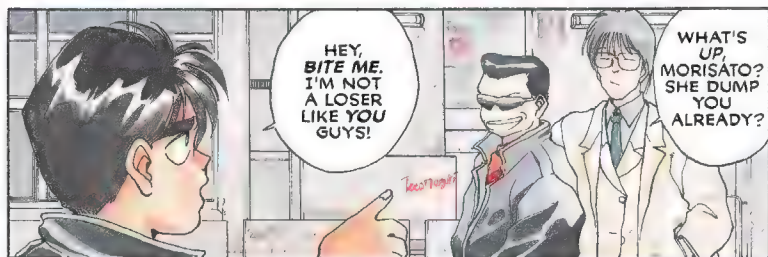
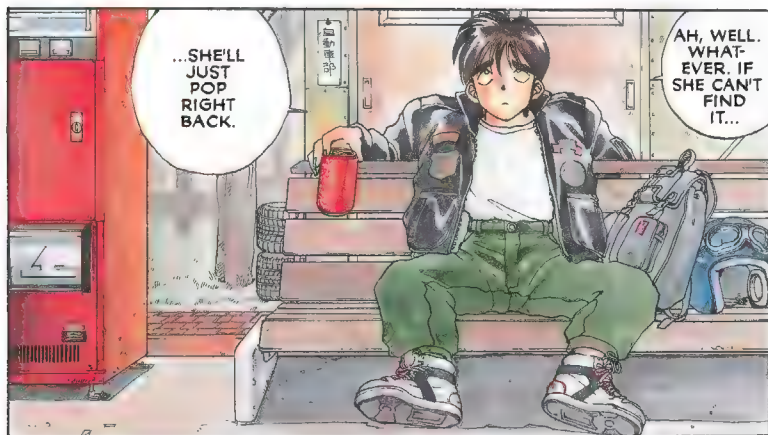
damn!

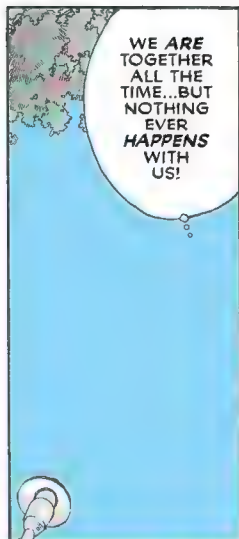
I CAN GO GET IT FOR YOU. IT'S IN PROFESSOR OZAWA'S LAB, RIGHT?

OH, DEAR!

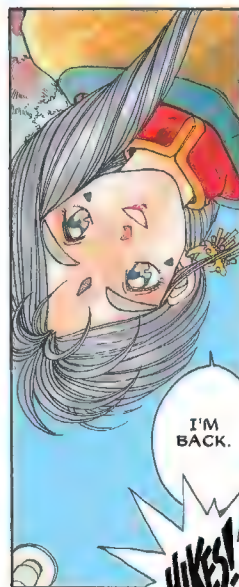
I JUST REALIZED I LEFT MY REPORT BEHIND!

WAIT! DO YOU KNOW WHICH ONE--

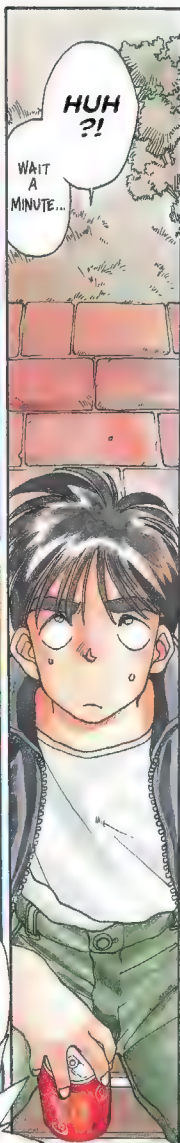




WE ARE
TOGETHER
ALL THE
TIME...BUT
NOTHING
EVER
HAPPENS
WITH
US!

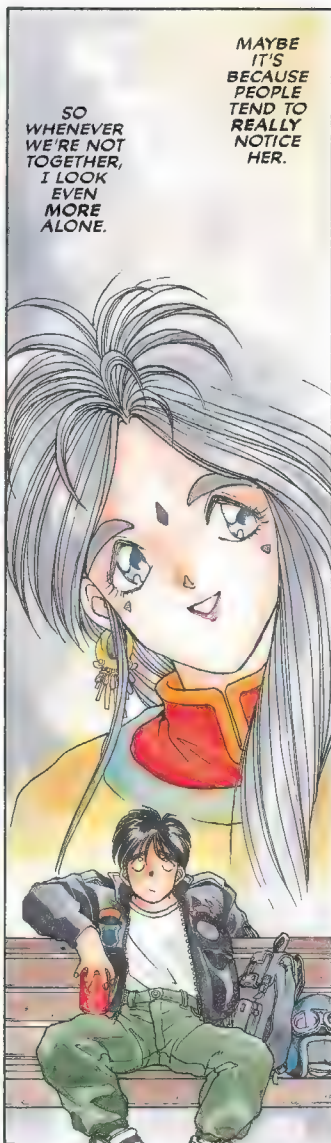


I'M
BACK.



HUH
?!

WAIT
A
MINUTE...



MAYBE
IT'S
BECAUSE
PEOPLE
TEND TO
REALLY
NOTICE
HER.

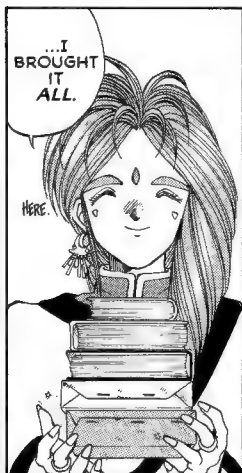
SO
WHENEVER
WE'RE NOT
TOGETHER,
I LOOK
EVEN
MORE
ALONE.



OH, WAIT...
I GENERATED
A GRAVITA-
TIONAL
INTERUPTION
FIELD AROUND
MY HANDS.

OTHERWISE, THEY'RE
RATHER HEAVY.

yeah...
right!



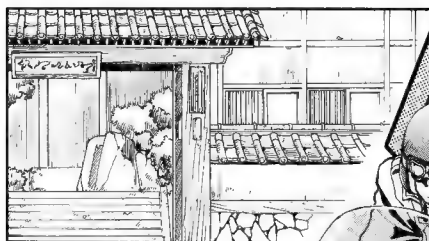
...I
BROUGHT
IT
ALL.

HERE.

NOW,
I DIDN'T
KNOW
EXACTLY
WHAT YOU
NEEDED,
SO...

YES!

TH-
TH-
THAT
WAS
FAST!

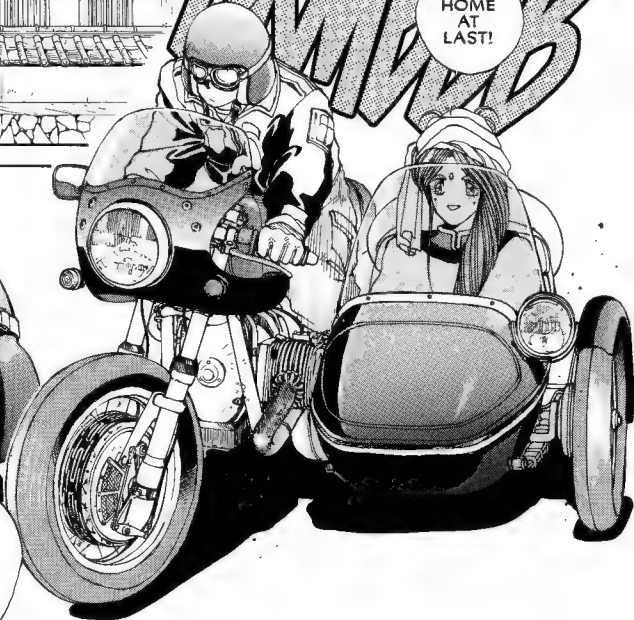


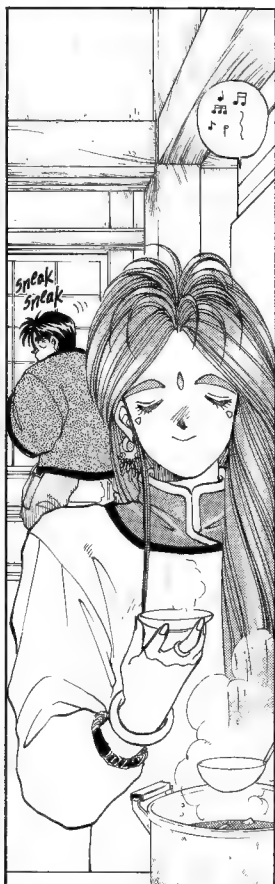
BRING

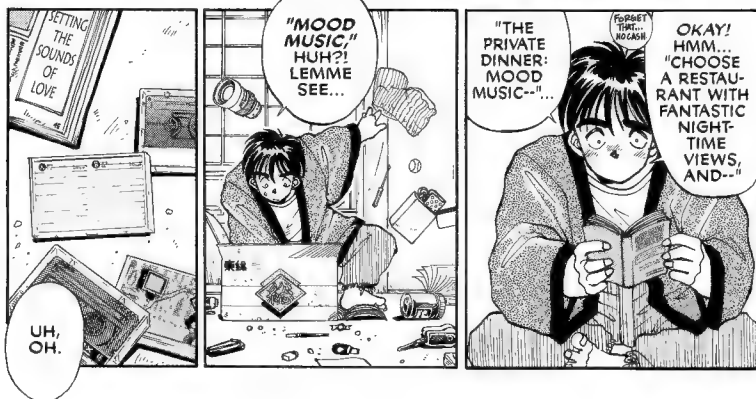
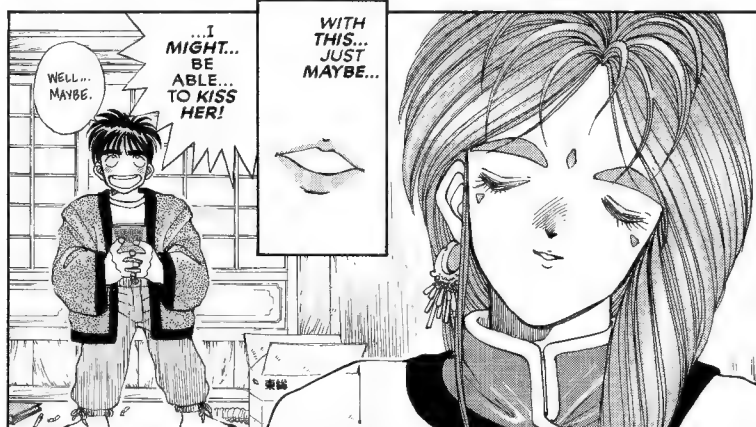
AH,
HOME
AT
LAST!



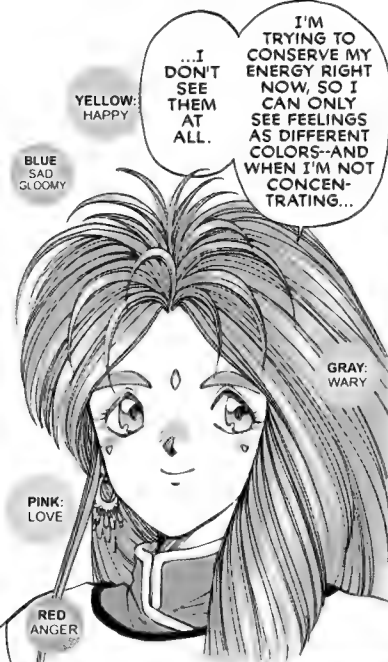
...NOW
I CAN'T
GET IT
OUT OF
MY MIND.











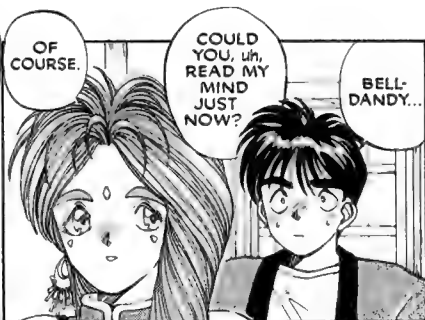
YELLOW:
HAPPY

BLUE
SAD
GLOOMY

GRAY:
WARY

PINK:
LOVE

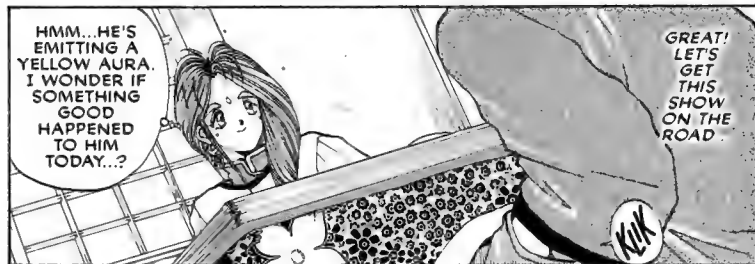
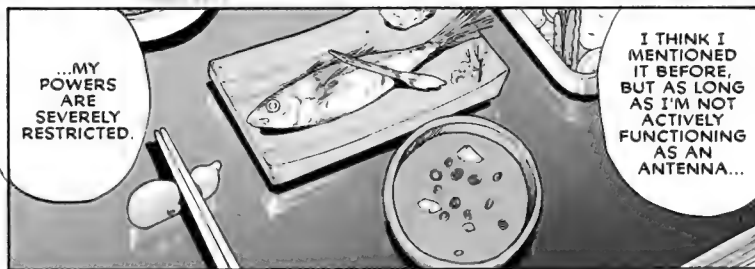
RED
ANGER



BELL-
DANDY...



MY
PLANS...
RUINED!





--YOU
MORON!



...I
FORGOT
THE
HEAD-
PHONES.

OH,
YEAH.
SILLY
ME...

THERE
WE
GO--



(SILENCE)

THAT'S
WEIRD...
I DON'T
HEAR
ANY-
THING.



OKAY,
PIANO
MAN...
DO
YOUR
THING!

Pfff

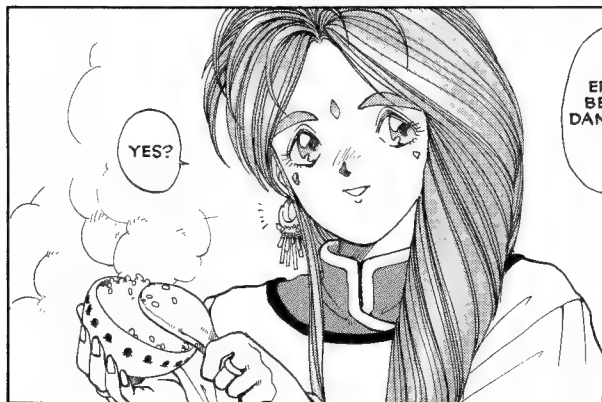


I'M NOT
TRYING TO
SEDUCE
MYSELF!
16800 YEN
WILL NOT
BUY ME
LOVE!

maybe
we could
share
the head
phones?



BOUGHT
FOR ¥16800
WORTH ¥24800



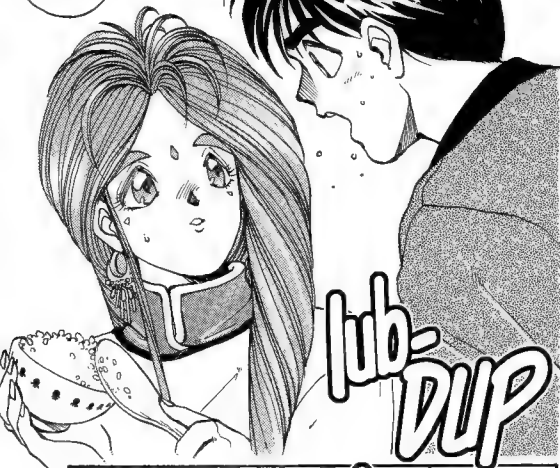
YES?

ER...
BELL-
DANDY?

WAIT!
I DON'T
NEED A
FANCY
SOUND
SYSTEM!
MY
HEART-
FELT
WORDS
ARE
PRICELESS!
OR AT
LEAST
WORTH
16800
YEN!

I GUESS,
I THINK,
MAYBE WE
SHOULD
MAKE
THINGS
CLEAR,
Y'KNOW?

I
MEAN,
IF YOU...
uh...DON'T
WANT TO,
THEN THAT'S
OKAY TOO,
B-BUT...

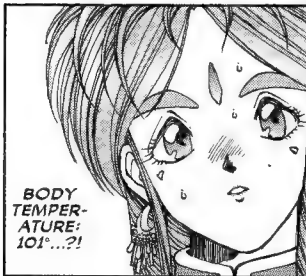


PULSE:
120
BPM!



lub-DUP

SO, IF YOU
SAY NO,
WELL...I
UNDERSTAND,
BUT...



BODY
TEMPER-
ATURE:
101°...?!

lub-DUP

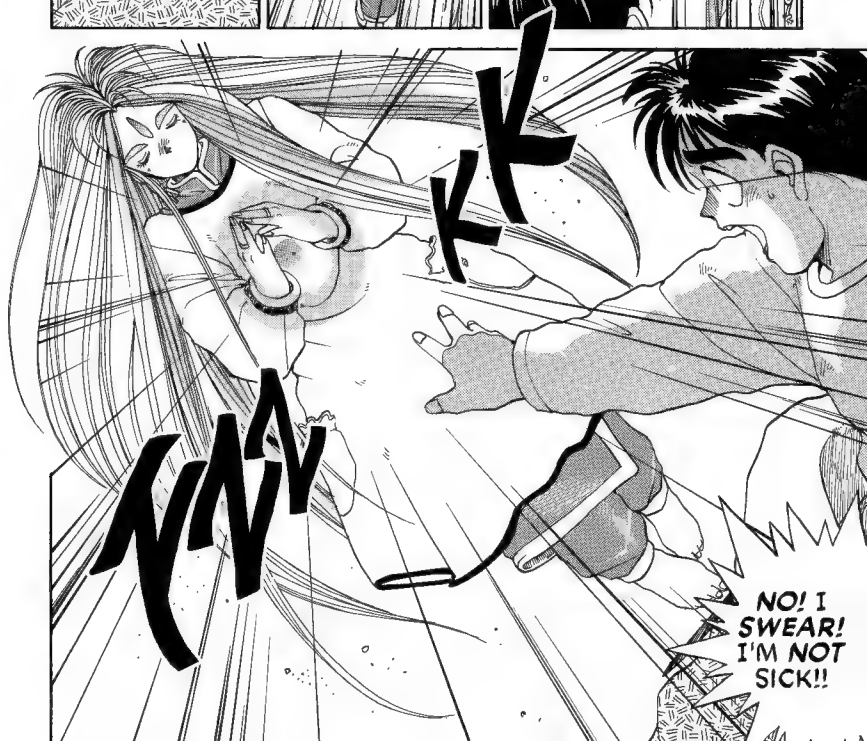
BLOOD
PRESSURE:
170/100
AND
RISING!

WELL,
WE'VE BEEN
LIVING
TOGETHER,
JUST THE TWO
OF US, FOR
SEVERAL
MONTHS NOW,
AND...

I WAS
JUST THINK-
ING,
YOU
KNOW...
er...

...UH...IT'S
KIND OF
WEIRD THERE
HASN'T BEEN
ANYTHING
HAPPENING
BETWEEN US...
IF, er, YOU
KNOW WHAT
I MEAN.





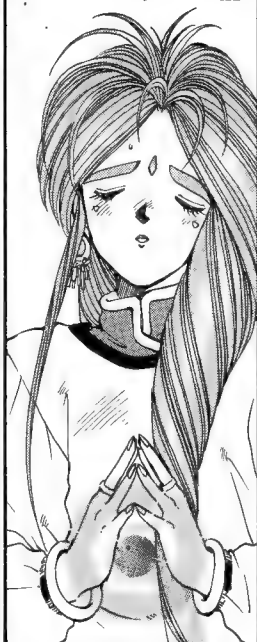


MUSTN'T...
GIVE UP
ATTEMPT...
TO
SCORE...



AND
SO,
BELL-
DANDY
BROUGHT
DOWN
THE
POWERS
OF
HEAVEN
TO
HEAL
KEIICHI...

...WHILE
KEIICHI
FOUGHT
BACK
DESPER-
ATELY,
TO PRE-
SERVE
HIS LUST.



THANK
GOOD-
NESS...
HE'S FINALLY
BACK TO
NORMAL.

WHILE FIERCE,
SUCH A
BATTLE
COULD HAVE
BUT ONE
OUTCOME--
HIS IMPURE
HUMAN SPIRIT
WAS NO
MATCH FOR
BELLDANDY...
THE
GODDESS
FIRST CLASS
(UNLIMITED).





CHAPTER 8

The Blossom in Bloom

LOOK AT THIS MISERABLE BALANCE-- 520 YEN LEFT TO LAST US THE REST OF THE MONTH.

sigh

GEEZ.

【毎週得意金】				【毎週得意金】			
月	日	金額	備考	月	日	金額	備考
1	1	100		1	1	100	
1	2	100		1	2	100	
1	3	100		1	3	100	
1	4	100		1	4	100	
1	5	100		1	5	100	
1	6	100		1	6	100	
1	7	100		1	7	100	
1	8	100		1	8	100	
1	9	100		1	9	100	
1	10	100		1	10	100	
1	11	100		1	11	100	
1	12	100		1	12	100	
1	13	100		1	13	100	
1	14	100		1	14	100	
1	15	100		1	15	100	
1	16	100		1	16	100	
1	17	100		1	17	100	
1	18	100		1	18	100	
1	19	100		1	19	100	
1	20	100		1	20	100	
1	21	100		1	21	100	
1	22	100		1	22	100	
1	23	100		1	23	100	
1	24	100		1	24	100	
1	25	100		1	25	100	
1	26	100		1	26	100	
1	27	100		1	27	100	
1	28	100		1	28	100	
1	29	100		1	29	100	
1	30	100		1	30	100	
1	31	100		1	31	100	



Almighty, Thy Servant
Wanders Famished,
Here in the Wilderness!
Find for Me Sustenance,
Lo, Until Seven Suns
Do Rise and
Seven Suns Do Set!



D-DON'T
TELL ME--
YOU CAN
EVEN CREATE
MONEY?!

WHY DIDN'T
YOU SAY SO
BEFORE?!



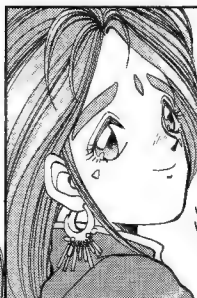
NO...
DON'T
YOU
WORRY,
KEIICHI.
I'LL TAKE
CARE OF
THIS.



HUH?!

NO...
I CAN'T
CONVERT
PHYSICAL
MATTER IN
SUCH
DETAIL.

IT'S TOO
HARD TO
MAKE
SUCH
PRECISION
COPIES.







YOU
DON'T
KNOW
WHERE
I COME
FROM,
BELL!



OH,
KEIICHI,
NOW...I
REALLY
DON'T REALLY
THINK YOU
HAVE TO--



WOW! WHO
WOULD HAVE
BELIEVED IT? I
MEAN, KEI-CHAN,
LIVING WITH A
BEAUTIFUL
FORIEGNER!
I MEAN,
THAT'S JUST
AMAZING!

Shouldn't
you be
in high
school?

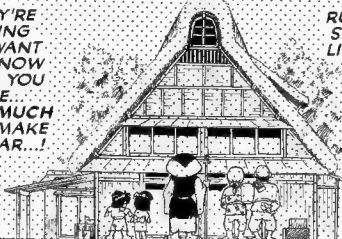
Shut
it,
brat.



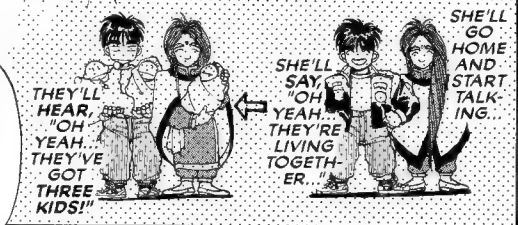
NO, HE
DOESN'T. I'M
KEI-CHAN'S
LITTLE SISTER...
MEGUMI
MORISATO.
PLEASED
T'MEETCHA!



THEY'RE
GOING
TO WANT
TO KNOW
WHO YOU
ARE...
HOW MUCH
YOU MAKE
A YEAR...!



RUMORS
SPREAD
LIKE THE
FLU!



THIS IS THE
COUNTRY!
THEY'LL TAKE
THE TINIEST
TIDBIT ABOUT
A FELLER,
AND BLOW
IT UP INTO
A TALL
TALE!

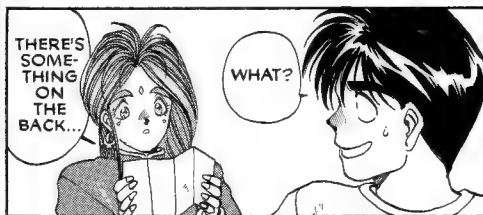
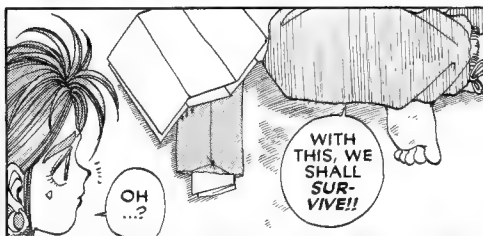
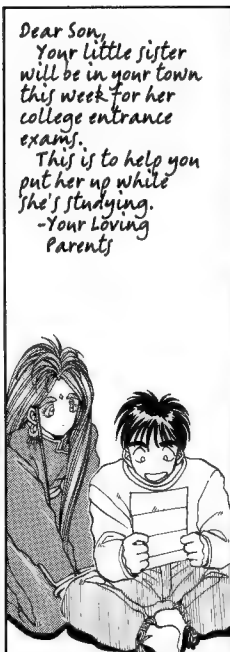
I
KNOW THAT
HAPPENS IN
THE CITY, TOO--
BUT TRUST
ME ON
THIS.

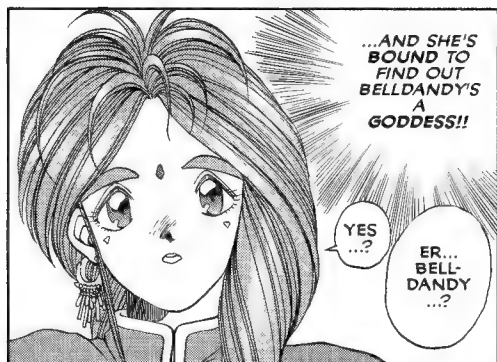
THEY'LL
HEAR,
"OH
YEAH...
THEY'VE
GOT
THREE
KIDS!"

SHE'LL
SAY,
"OH
YEAH...
THEY'RE
LIVING
TOGETHER."
←

SHE'LL
GO
HOME
AND
START
TALKING...

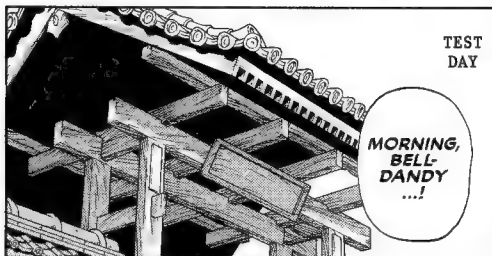
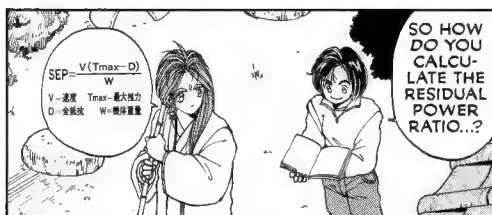
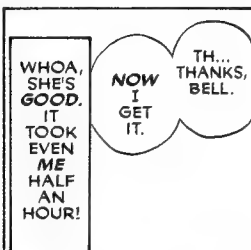














I WILL
NEVER
LEAVE
HIS
SIDE.

I AM
HERE
ON THIS
EARTH
FOR
KEIICHI
ALONE.



...WHAT
ARE YOUR
FUTURE
PLANS
WITH MY
BROTHER
...?



TODAY
IS THE
BIG DAY,
ISN'T IT,
MEGUMI?

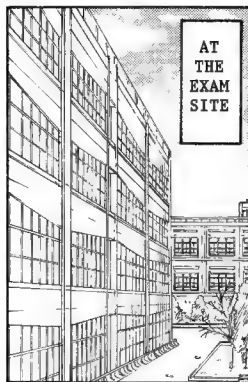
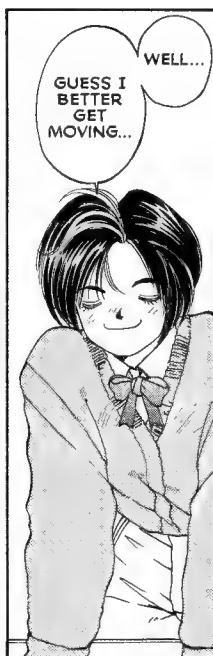
YEP!
ER...CAN
YOU TELL
ME ONE
LAST
THING?

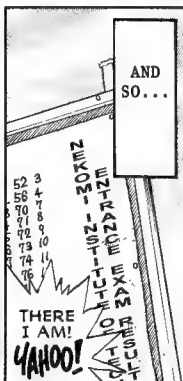
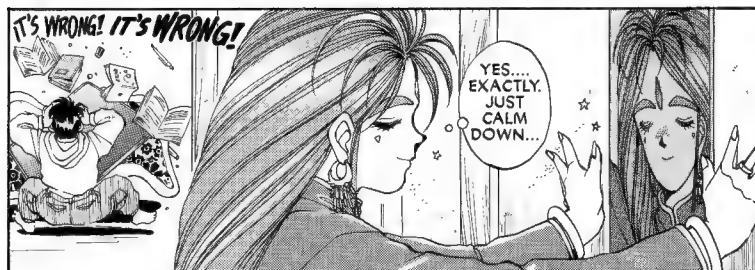
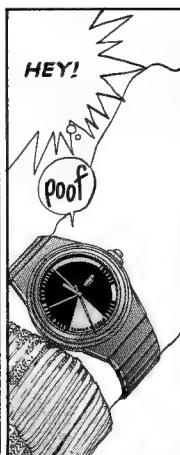
OF
COURSE!



DID SHE
REALLY
JUST SAY
SOMETHING
LIKE
THAT?

I MEAN...
YOU THINK
SHE'D BE
A LITTLE
EMBARRASSED.

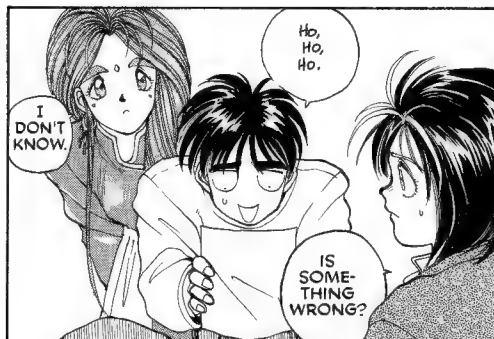






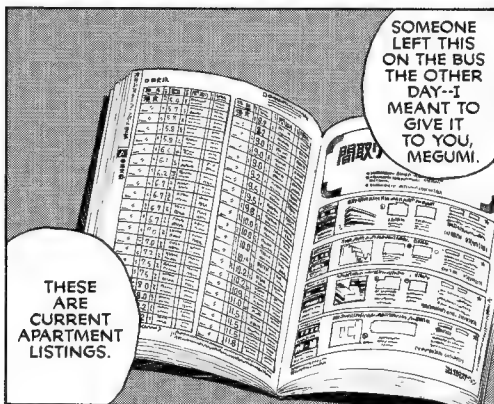
CHAPTER 9

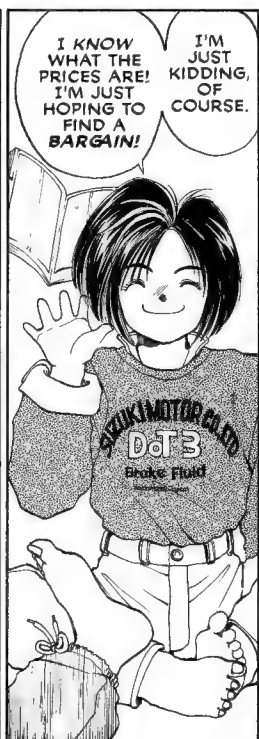
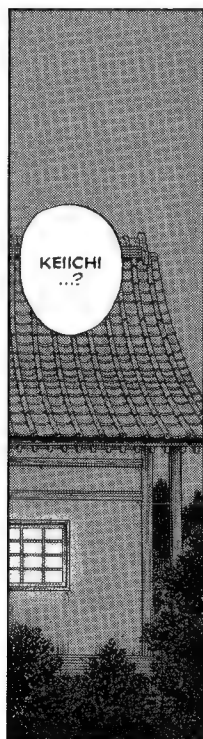
Apartment Hunting Blues

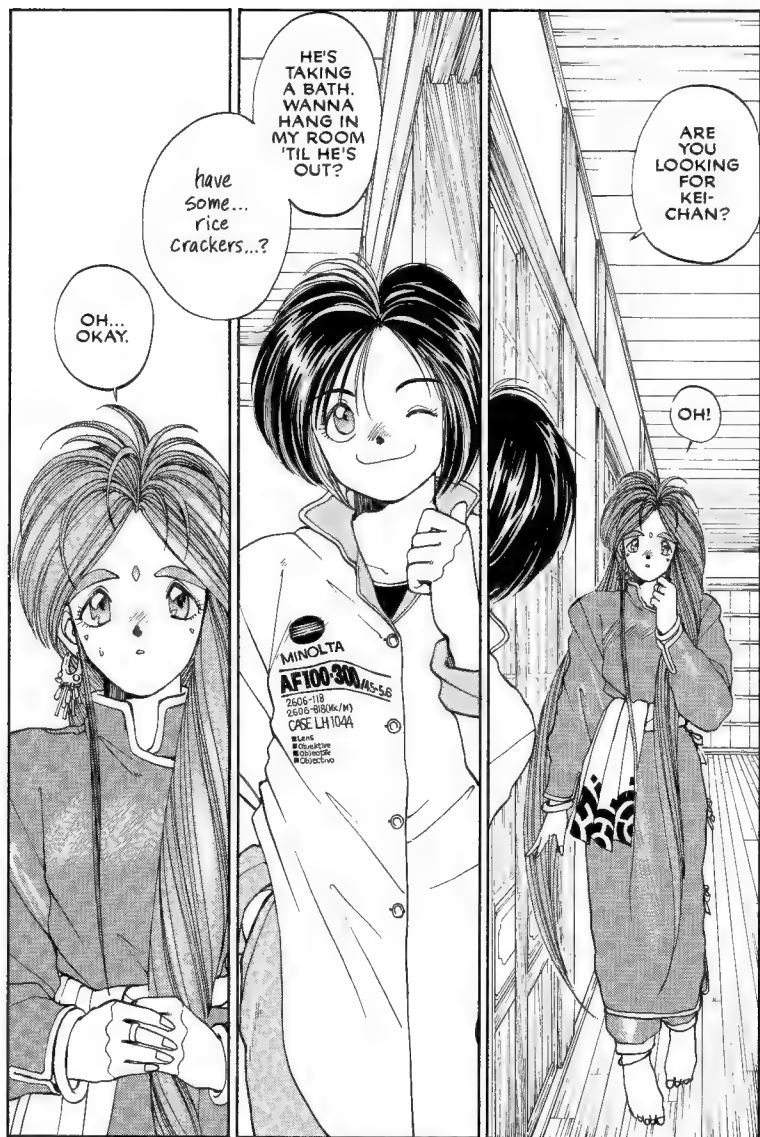


TWO SIX-MAT ROOMS
WANTED W/BATH,
W/TOILET, W/KITCHEN,
LOCATED IN NEW
APARTMENT UNIT.
(must not be more than five years old.)
MUST BE NO MORE THAN
10 MIN. WALK FROM
CAMPUS. MUST HAVE
SOUTHERN EXPOSURE.
(oh, excuse me-- southeastern
exposure).

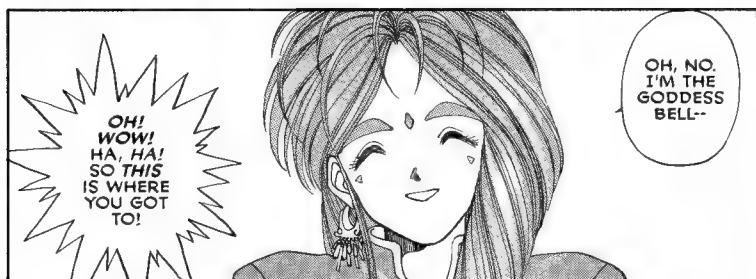
MAX
RENT:
35,000
YEN.

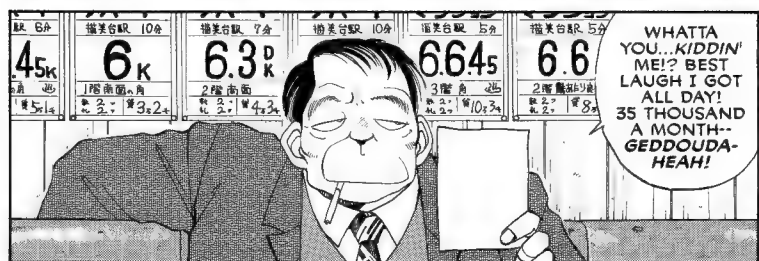


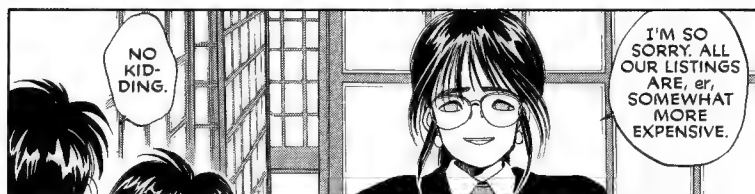






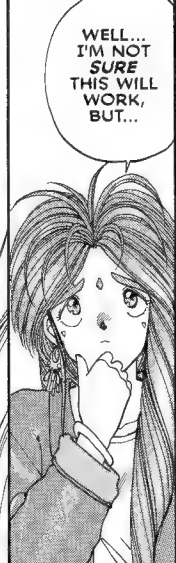




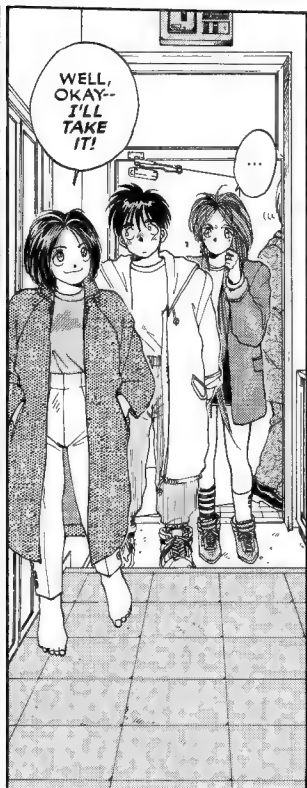
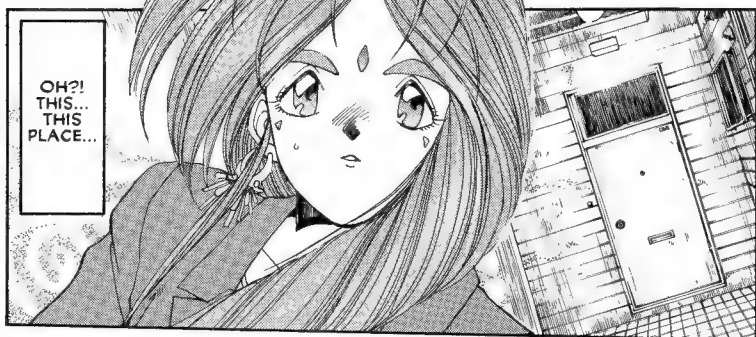


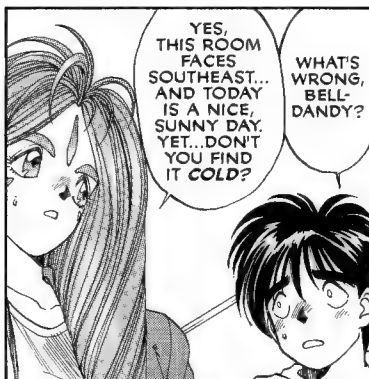


Perfect Lodging
for which We Seek
Abandoned //
in Solitude
Reveal to Me
Your Hiding Place
And Bring an End
to Your Loneliness!



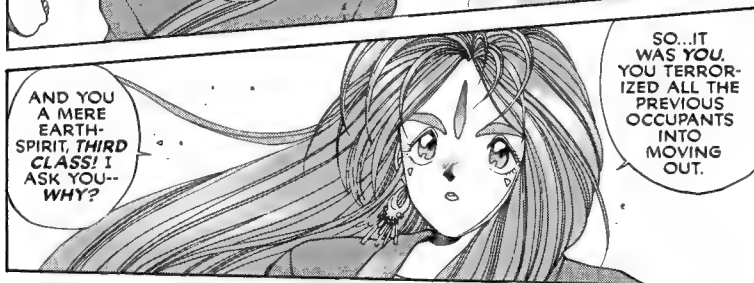








WHO
WAS YOU,
WOMAN?



AND YOU
A MERE
EARTH-
SPIRIT, **THIRD
CLASS!** I
ASK YOU--
WHY?

SO...IT
WAS YOU.
YOU TERROR-
IZED ALL THE
PREVIOUS
OCCUPANTS
INTO
MOVING
OUT.



ENOUGH!
I DON'T
WANT A
BATTLE.
RETURN TO
THE EARTH
WHERE
YOU
BELONG!

HMM...
IT SEEMS
YOU ARE
WEAKENED
BY BEING
HERE...

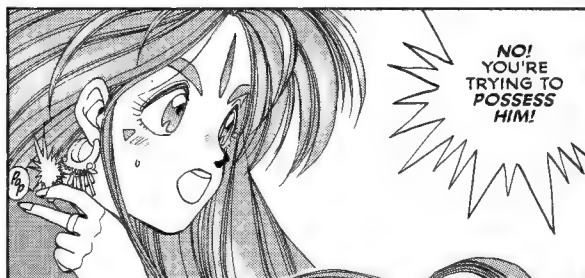
HO!
YOU
KNOW
ME FOR
WHAT
I AM,
DO YOU?

I
DIDN'T
KNOW
THERE
WAS
ANYONE
LIKE YOU
IN THIS
DIMEN-
SION.



THAT
SHALL
NOT
BE.

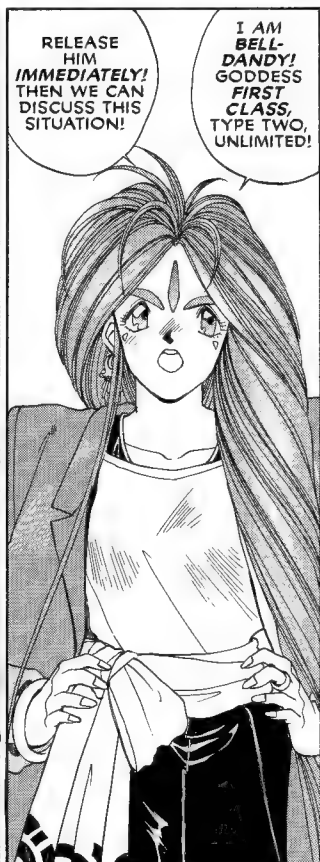
fzk

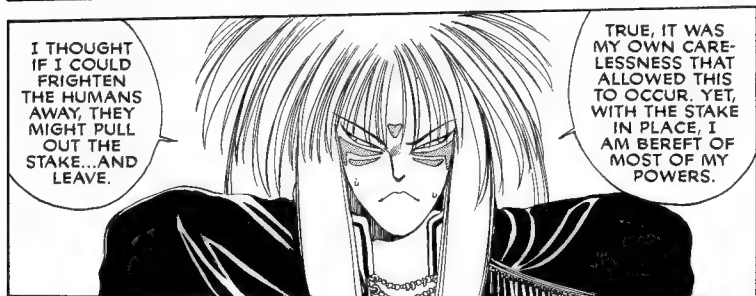
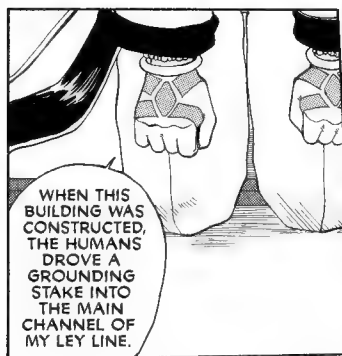
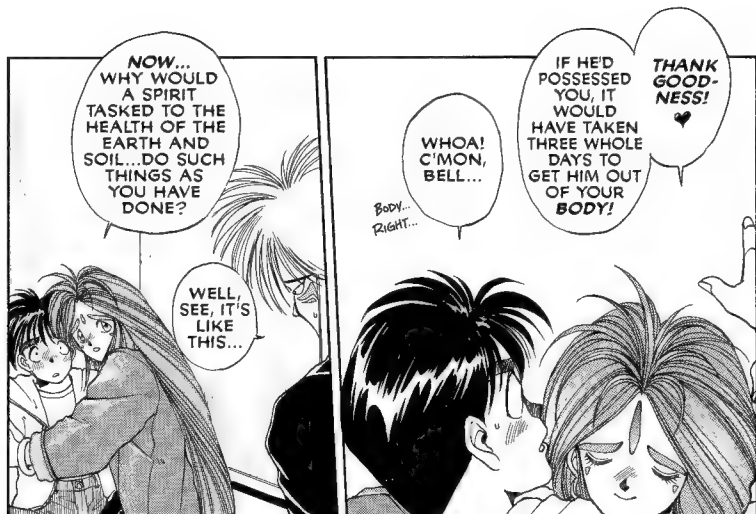


NO!
YOU'RE
TRYING TO
POSSESS
HIM!



THAT
SHALL
NOT
BE!





WHEN
A LINE
IS
BROKEN...

THEY'RE
THE ROUTES
THE EARTH
SPIRITS
TRAVEL...
AND THE
SOURCE OF
ALL THEIR
POWER.

"LEY
LINE"...?
WHAT'S
THAT?

...THE LOCAL
EARTH SPIRIT
WITHERS,
AND THE
EARTH ITSELF
IN THAT
PLACE CAN
DIE!

I
SHALL
TAP
THE
LINE.

AS
YOU
WISH,
MY
LADY.

I
PLEDGE
THIS
BY MY
NAME.

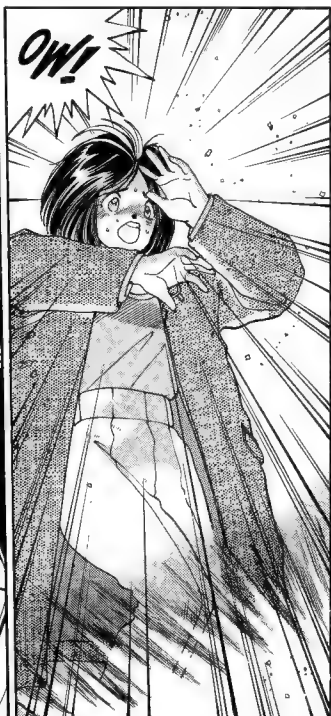
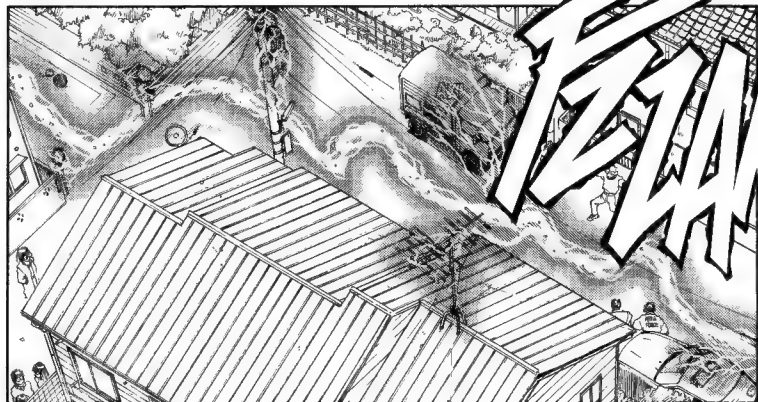
NOW...
IF I RE-
ENERGIZE
YOU...WILL
YOU
RETURN
TO
TENDING
THE
LAND?

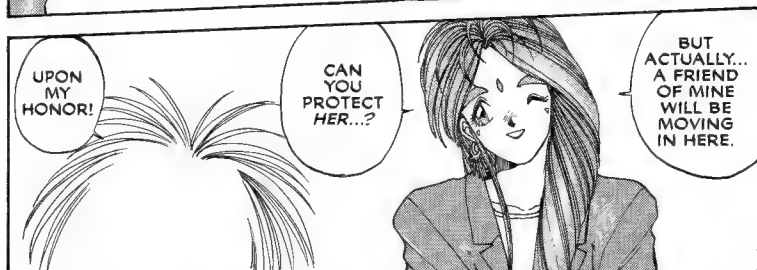
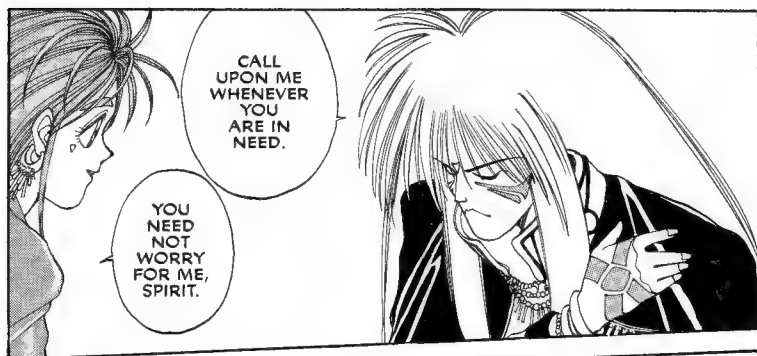
VEEEN

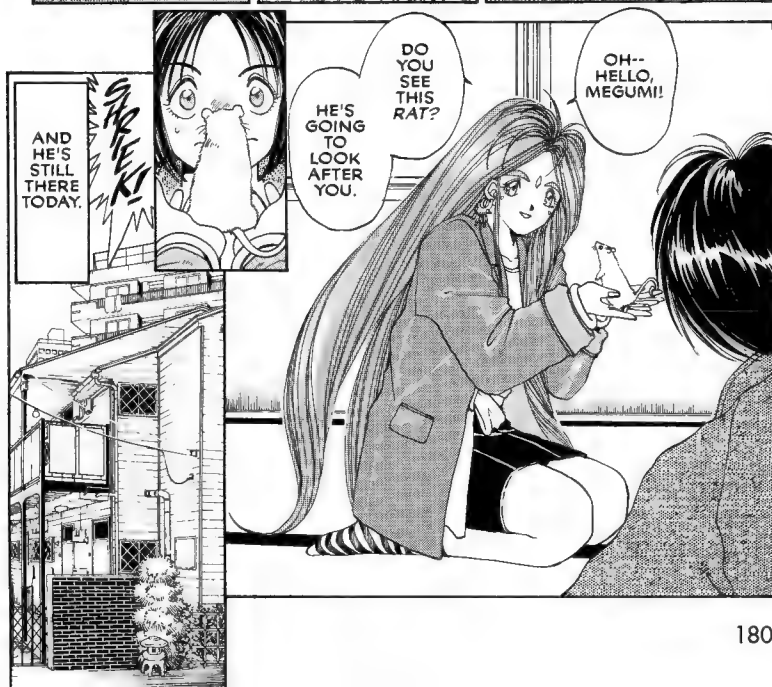
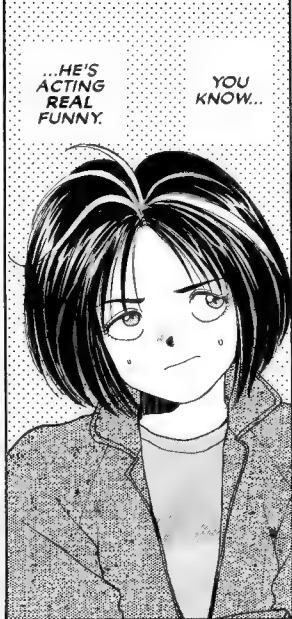
...And
Shift
the
Very
Currents
of the
Land!!

Amplify the
Spirit of
the Earth!
Increase Thou
My Power...









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English-language version
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OH MY GODDESS! Vol. 1

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First of all, thanks to all the readers for the positive reception of *Oh My Goddess! Vol. 21* (see below). We received a number of responses to it, which will be printed in the "Letters to the Enchantress" section of Vol. 22. If you're starting the *OMG!* story right here with Vol. 1, though, we'd like your letters and fan art to print in Vol. 2! Read on . . .

Welcome to Vol. 1 of the new edition of *Oh My Goddess!* In July, Dark Horse released the first volume of *OMG!* in this new edition . . . which was actually Vol. 21. If you're brand new to this manga series, that last statement doesn't seem to make much sense, but please don't go. ^_^ Simply put, Dark Horse has already been releasing *Oh My Goddess!* in English for eleven years, but always in the "flopped," left-to-right reading (i.e., normal English direction) format, which was in fact the industry standard until just a few years ago.

After getting all the way up to Vol. 20 in left-to-right (and these volumes, by the way, are still available), Dark Horse decided to switch to right-to-left, the new industry standard. This switch means not only that all new volumes in the story are being re-released

right-to-left (hence, Vol. 21 in July), but Dark Horse is also going back and re-releasing all the old volumes, Vols. 1-20, in right-to-left format (hence, the book you're reading right now).

The idea is to serve both the fans who were already reading *Oh My Goddess!* in its old format, and the new fans we hope will discover this charming, and, shall we say, highly influential series. From now on, every two months, Dark Horse will switch off between "new" and "old" volumes. So, in January 2006 will come *OMG!* Vol. 22; in April 2006, *OMG!* Vol. 2; in June, *OMG!* Vol. 23, and so forth.

Oh My Goddess! is not only the second-longest continuously published manga series in the United States, it's been one of the more enduring manga series in Japan, too. The stories in this first volume ran originally in *OMG!*'s home magazine, the monthly *Afternoon* (also home of Dark Horse titles such as *Seraphic Feather*, *Blade of the Immortal*, *Gunsmith Cats*, and *Cannon God Exaxxion*), between November of 1988 and May of 1989. *Afternoon* magazine's very first issue had come out just the year before *Oh My Goddess!* started, so this manga has been very much a part of its history, and as of the October 2005 issue of *Afternoon*, the story is now up to Chapter 204.

It's a little startling to realize when *OMG!* began, Ronald Reagan was still president, and Osamu Tezuka was still alive. It was an interesting time both for Japan, and for manga. In 1988 Japan was known mainly to

the West as a challenger for geopolitical prominence—the same way people talk about China today, but more so. The '80s had that very cyberpunk, *Blade Runner*-type vision of a future that would belong no longer to American, but to Japanese corporate imperialism. That didn't seem like such a bad thing to me when I was eighteen, if simply because Japanese corporate imperial products were much cooler.

Like Keiichi, I was a sophomore in college in the fall of 1988, and writing term papers about future economic conflict with Japan—or even future war. Never about anime or manga, though. Oddly enough, what was missing back then was mainstream American interest in Japanese *pop culture*. The big Japan-related stories that year were about the trade deficit, or how Japanese companies were buying American corporations and famous buildings, or whether American companies should use Japanese methods of organization—in other words, business and political issues. But anime and manga, as such, still barely existed on the radar of the American mass media, or indeed, in academia—these days it seems *most* of the university writing about Japan is about anime and manga.

Of course, there were otaku back then, too—I was already one—but you would sometimes get this weird vibe of a type you wouldn't really get today, where people would ask, shouldn't you be studying *serious* Japanese stuff so you can learn how to help America compete with Mitsubishi? As for professors hanging out at anime shows on campus, forget it; they wanted you to get a grounding in Japanese history and literature. I don't think that's such a bad idea for an anime fan either, as anime, like everything else, emerges out of a historical reality (although many have loved anime without knowing anything about Japan, or indeed, without even knowing it was Japanese).

It occurs to me now in writing this, that it's probably a good thing for Japanese studies departments that Americans are now so into anime and manga—because it eventually picked up the interest in Japan that had dipped after the Japanese economic bubble burst in the early '90s. You never know how these things are going to turn out; a friend of mine from high school completed his degree in Soviet Studies in 1991, the year the Soviet Union collapsed. To date there has been no compensating boom in Russian animation and comics.

EDITOR'S COMMENTARY ON VOL. 1:

3.6: The little dab of watercolor that goes over the top panel border between the word balloons was in the original. We are now so authentic it *hurts*.

7.2: The drawing tacked to the wall to the upper right of Bell-chan's head reads *shochuu*, meaning the middle of summer. Who drew it? A younger relative of one of the guys in the dorm?

14.1 The little octopus seen below Keiichi's left hand is a reference to *Kure Kure Takora* ("Gimme Gimme Octopus"), a wild Japanese live-action kid's show from 1973 about a greedy young, well, octopus, whose catch-phrase is "Gimme! Gimme!" and whose eight arms come in handy for the task. Takora is said to also make a cameo near the beginning of the famous "Mr. Sparkle" ad in *The Simpsons*. Two Japanese sites about the show can be found at: <http://www.kagurazaka.co.jp/kachimo/takora/takora.html> (this one will play the theme song for you) and <http://www001.upp.so-net.ne.jp/kindan-hm/takora.html> (more images up front).

19.2: Belldandy's parable of the TV antenna already seems a bit dated, as most Americans today get their TV through cable or digital satellite. However, Japan, which usually has a well-deserved reputation for being ahead of America on technical developments, didn't really start to introduce cable television until well into the 1980s.

27.1: When this story was first published in English in 2000, and later when it was collected in *OMG!* Vol. 1, it was called "Into The Lair of the Anime Otaku." Sada is recognizable as a stereotypical otaku (he even bears some physical resemblance to Tanaka, the "Otaking" of Gainax's must-see 1991 *Otaku no Video*, available in the U.S. through animeigo.com—also home to the original *Oh My Goddess!* anime series). But in fact the word "otaku" never appears in the original Japanese story; instead, the chapter title (and Keiichi) refer to Sada not as an "anime otaku," but as an "anime mania"—literally, using the English word "mania," which in Japanese becomes pronounced as "mah-nee-ah" instead of "may-nee-ah."

This is no more than speculation, but it is also possible that Fujishima *did* use "otaku" when this story first appeared in the December 1988 issue of *Afternoon*, but that it was changed for the graphic novel. The first printing of *Oh My Goddess!* Vol. 1 in Japan is dated August 23, 1989, exactly one month after the arrest of Tsutomu Miyazaki. An otaku who committed depraved serial killings, Miyazaki made the term notorious for a period of several years in the Japanese media (today it has been somewhat co-opted, if not always respected, as a marketable subculture, like gangster rap). In such an atmosphere of hysteria, it might have been deemed imprudent to refer to Sada as an otaku, even if he clearly is one—hence a change to the term "mania."

Again, however, that is no more than speculation, and the loan-word "mania"—the Japanese use "mania" where we would say "maniac"—to describe an obsessed fan is older in Japan than this meaning for "otaku," which didn't acquire that association until the early 1980s ("otaku" is just a form of the pronoun "you"—Jack Seward's 1969 book *Japanese in Action* recommended "otaku" as more masculine than the polite *anata* ordinarily taught in class!). But I found its use here intriguing, and it brought to mind a recollection that in the mid-'90s, scholar Kenji Sato (whose controversial essay on anime, "More Animated Than Life" was quoted in Donald Richie's 2002 book *A Hundred Years of Japanese Film*) was then trying to promote the term "mania" as a more positive substitute for "otaku"—an interesting reversal.

In any event, I don't believe Fujishima meant any special disrespect in his timeless portrayal of Sada; *Oh My Goddess!* found early affection among otaku audiences (it has been observed that the many imitations of *OMG!* over the years have progressively exploited its "harem" premise with overkill on fan service, without achieving Fujishima's sensitivity and elegance). Kosuke Fujishima himself trained as an assistant under the genuinely maniacal Tatsuya Egawa (best known in America for the anime based on his manga *Golden Boy*), who was even then a friend of Gainax's Hideaki Anno, and in fact used to draw covers for Gainax's *doujinshi*. It's fair to guess that Fujishima knew his way around otaku long before the general public had even heard the word.

It isn't the intention, by the way, of the new edition of *Oh My Goddess!* to make changes to the original English version merely for the sake of having it be "closer to the Japanese," if the so-called "closer" version actually makes things less clear. Changing "otaku" to "mania," as this edition

does, in fact risks just that. But I thought the background behind the word was of sufficient interest to make the change; fortunately “anime mania” is readily understandable in English as an anime obsession, even if the reader doesn’t realize at first that “mania” is being used here not to refer to the obsession, but to the obsessed person.

28.4: In this era, I’m surprised passersby didn’t mistake her for Axl Rose.

32.6: Note Bell-chan clutching one of her shoes; Keiichi didn’t even give her time to put them both back on (after taking them off to enter a Japanese house).

34.6: Probably a play on *Magical Emi* (1985) and/or *Creamy Mami* (1983), two “magical girl” shows that were early projects of industry titan Studio Pierrot, who more recently made the anime versions of *Great Teacher Onizuka*, *Naruto*, and *Bleach*.

37.4: Belldandy is holding a laserdisc. Before the Great Fire War destroyed human civilization, the Ancient Ones inscribed wondrous sounds and pictures on these shining plates, which resembled a DVD—yet so large that a warrior’s hand’s-breadth would not span its surface! Or so the elders of the tribe tell us.

37.5: To be a bit more specific, the 12-inch laserdisc, or LD, format, came onto the market in the late 1970s and, until the DVD supplanted it in the late 1990s, was basically the high-end alternative to watching movies on videotape. The LD format had a few advantages compared to DVD; you never had to worry about “artifacting” as you sometimes do with DVDs, as the visuals on an LD were stored in an uncompressed analog format. From a collector’s standpoint, many movies (like the original cuts of

the *Star Wars* films) had versions on LD different on their VHS or DVD releases; also, the large size of the LD envelope allowed the potential for beautiful layout and extras such as posters. Big disadvantages were the fact that, unlike DVDs, LDs weren’t available as blank media, and could only store one hour of a movie (or half an hour, in the higher-quality “CAV” format—but never mind) before you had to flip them over and play the other side.

LDs were always bigger in Japan than in America, where they were generally confined to cinephiles and the tech-oriented; and of course, among those categories, quite a few otaku. Pioneer LDCA (now known as Geneon) was well-regarded for the high quality of their anime LDs in the mid-’90s; as well they might be, as Pioneer was the world’s leading manufacturer of laserdiscs. Superelite status, however, was exuded by fans such as the editor, who bought import Japanese LDs (laserdiscs also had none of that DVD nonsense about region encoding) *despite having no LD player*. They sat on the shelf in their wrapper and were merely contemplated. It was a higher, spiritual way of enjoying the show.

38.2: Look at the little flying creature at top right; this is a close-up of the upper left corner of page 38, and probably takes the prize for the most obscure in-joke in Vol. 1 of *OMG!*—for the only way you would ever know it existed is if you had access to images of Mr. Fujishima’s original manga art before it’s laid out for printing. You can’t actually see it on the page in either the Dark Horse or the original Japanese edition, because the doodle is above the top “bleed” line for page 38—a bleed is where an artist draws a panel deliberately so that the art will go off the edge of the page, as opposed to art drawn inside panel borders.



The doodle is apparently of "Noripii-Man," a character associated with Noriko Sakai, an idol singer and actress (official site <http://www.sunmusic.org/noriko/index.html>). Seventeen years old in December of 1988 when this story first appeared in *Afternoon*, she had just released her fourth album, *Lovely Times*. The same year, Noriko Sakai sang "Active Heart," the theme to Gainax's original *Gunbuster* anime series. "Noripii" (sometimes spelled "Nori-P") is her nickname, formed by shortening "Noriko" and adding the cute-sounding suffix "pii." Michael Gombos points out this usage is common among ko-gals; Ropponmatsu II also uses it in *Excel Saga*.

39.4: We honestly don't know what the tiny notes below the bottom panel border, "Garikin," and "Puupii," mean. They seem to be pointing to the spirits Belldandy senses to either side; they also sound a bit like manga sound FX. But as Morrissey said—although this isn't really his kind of manga—"there's always someone somewhere with a big nose who knows," so if you are

that someone, please feel free to write in and inform *Letters to the Enchantress*. Big nose or not.

41.2: In the original Japanese, Sada said literally, "My world exists inside this 26-inch square," which is not only a good line, but a surprising indication of TVs in Japan being marketed in inches—under most circumstances, of course, Japan is metric (see note for 166.3-4 below).

45.1: Satoshi Iwataki and Satoru Nakamura are the names of real people in the anime industry (for example, Satoshi Iwataki was a key animator on the recent *Tide-Line Blue* and Satoru Nakamura was an animation director on *Ghost in the Shell: Stand Alone Complex*). We're not absolutely sure if Fujishima-san was doing a shout-out to these same people, although it is certainly possible, as he knows a number of people in the anime industry (this will come up later) and Nakamura, at least, was working on the notorious *Angel Cop* at the time this story was first published (December of 1988). "Nozomi Omori" was a tribute to the Studio Proteus agent in Japan (Omori is also a SF critic and translator, having adapted Japanese versions of Rudy Rucker's *Freeware* and Joe Haldeman's *The Hemingway Hoax*). The original name didn't give the music composer's full name.

50.2: The video Sada gives Belldandy is called *Magical Masseuse Fashion Lele*. Did she ever watch it? By the way, it is in a so-called “clamshell” case, of the kind a video rental store would give you to take away the tape in (as opposed to the simple printed cardboard sleeve). In the late 1980s and early ‘90s, some American anime companies, most notably Pioneer, AnimEigo, and U.S. Renditions, sold tapes in a “clamshell” as a mark of prestige. I can’t help but remember an incident at an

anime convention—I think it was in 1999—where I was on a panel giving out free *Ranma 1/2* videos as prizes ... and the look on the audience's faces when they realized they were in VHS indicated that for otaku, at least, the DVD era was now firmly in place.

71.4: The monk seems to regard Belldandy's goddess mark as a *byakugo*, the third, "all-seeing" eye traditionally associated with portrayals of a *nyorai*, one who has achieved enlightenment in the Buddhist tradition (a category that includes the historical Buddha himself as well as those who achieved enlightenment after him).

73.1-2: In Zen Buddhism, *zazen* is the well-known sitting form of meditation. The relentless whacking of Keiichi with a bamboo stave is designed to help his concentration; an exaggeration of an actual Zen practice, but also an indication that many Japanese don't take religion perfectly seriously (for more on the Japanese relation to historical Buddhism, please see the notes in the back of the Dark Horse release *Katsuya Terada's The Monkey King*).

75.1: It's interesting that when Belldandy used her power to place shoes upon her bare goddess feet, she made them into New Balance, the same label as the editor's sneaks. Or "trainers," for our U.K. readership.

77.3: In the mid-'80s, Toyota was notably involved in research towards making auto engines out of advanced ceramics instead of metal. The theoretical advantages are great: not only would ceramic engines weigh less, increasing efficiency for the overall car (after all, the engine has to move its own weight as well as that of the car and its passengers), but ceramic engines can burn fuel at temperatures where a normal engine would overheat

(not to mention melt into slag) which itself makes fuel use more efficient. However, while ceramic engines have been demonstrated in the lab, the industrial processes to mass-produce them safely (meaning, without cracks, because of the danger from their superheated fuel) has never been perfected. Some have voiced suspicion that ceramic engines are being kept off the market by conspiracy, but the Japanese have been the world leaders at marketing fuel-efficient technologies, so I am inclined to accept the simple engineering explanation.

84.5: Boy-oh-boy. Forget the LD, look at them 5 1/4" disc drives in the computer. They were just a little larger than a CD, except they were square, black, and had approximately 1/583 the storage capacity, limiting you to no more than a few "H" gifs at a time.

110.5: Otaki and Tamiya are probably named after the eponymous Japanese plastic model companies, but note that *otakki* is a variant on "otaku" sometimes used among otaku themselves. It's employed as both a noun and adjective—a slang use of a slang use, as if "otaku" were a Japanese adverb (which, of course, it isn't; see note for 27.1) ending in "ku" like *hayaku* ("quickly") that becomes an adjective when spelled with an "i" (so *hayai* means "fast").

It is sometimes reported that "otakki" was coined after the Tsutomu Miyazaki murders to distance the scene from the word otaku, but in fact the word is documented at least four years earlier than that, in Vol. 04, No. 014 of *Manga Puppeteer Tsushin* ("Manga Puppeteer Dispatch," a quarterly manga magazine published by General Products, the company called "Grand Prix" in *Otaku no Video*—see note for 27.1). Although no larger than an American comic book (ahem) at a stapled

38 pages, it featured short manga pieces by Hideaki Anno, *Cannon God Exaxxion's* Kenichi Sonoda, and, as aforementioned, covers by Kosuke Fujishima's mentor, Tatsuya Egawa.

The word appears on page 7 of this issue, within an astonishingly angry open letter to a "Mr. Komak"—who appears to be a magazine editor—written in equally astonishing English, verbatim: "You are the XXXX of mother XXXXing son of a Rich bich. Put your XXXX into your XXXXing XXX hole. You are just like a fore father of OTACKY people arnt you dummy?" The words represented here by Xs are considered unsuitable for a kind-hearted title like *Oh My Goddess!*

The letter, incidentally is signed by a "Sakura Dai," (a.k.a. "Day Sakura,") whom, I believe, is the person listed in the credits of *Pop Chaser* as its director, and hence, would therefore be a pseudonym for Hiroyuki Kitakubo, later the internationally acclaimed director of *Blood the Last Vampire*, of which Andy Wachowski said, "it was as if the art of Francis Bacon had come to life."

Documentary evidence; from the em-bers of a flame war long-forgotten. It is good to be able to share this with you; this terrible burden of knowledge that an otacky carries inside.

111.3: The sign on the door above Kakuta Labs reads *Fu-Rin-Ka-Zan*, a maxim said to be from Sun Tzu's *The Art of War*, meaning "wind-forest-fire-mountain." In Japan it was made most famous as the banner of Takeda Shingen, one of the great lords of Japan's 16th century era of civil war. The idea behind the slogan is that a military strategy should incorporate the qualities of these natural features.

The kind of redwood burly-looking thing hanging to the left side of the door

reads *Kakuta-heya*, "(The) Kakuta Room" The sign tacked to the board on the right-hand side of the hall thanks "helpers Yoshihiko Asano, Namie Iwao, and Ozuka Kunio." Mr. Fujishima's assistants?

112.4: Belldandy appears to be ex-pressing her spell here in the Thai alphabet, although the characters seem to be chosen at random.

113.4: The various graffiti written on the outside of the darkroom read, "Shut the lights when you leave!" "Stinks (in here)" "Please don't put anything on top," and more stridently, "Don't put anything up here!" (the request has been ignored, of course). Hanging down from the upper right corner of the darkroom curtain is an "Open for Business" sign that looks suspiciously swiped from some off-campus establishment.

113.6: Besides the bird and the Sumo wrestler, other objects on Otaki's mind are Almond Glico caramels, and a pack of Noritama-brand egg-flavored *furitake*, a flaky condiment that livens up any bowl of rice.

123.3: Otaki is wearing a Takora outfit, minus the head (see note for 14.1).

136.4: In Keiichi's frantic scattering of his chattels, we see he's got Yu's magic wand from *Creamy Mami* (see note for 34.6)—not to mention a Barbie doll, still in its collector's packaging. It kind of makes you wonder if his height isn't the only reason he's had poor luck with women.

138.1: Hiroko Kasahara is, as you might expect, a J-pop singer; she was nineteen years old when this story was first published in Japan, prompting the original Dark Horse English version to change her to "Tiffany," which by now would itself

require its own lengthy note of explanation. Kasahara might be better-known today to most U.S. fans as an anime *seiyuu* (voice actor); she played Fuu in *Magic Knights Rayearth* and Misuki's mother, Hazuki, in *Full Moon wo Sagashite*.

"Sudara-bushi" is a famous, funny Japanese song from the early 1960s about various stupid things one is unable to stop doing, no matter how many times they go wrong. It was written by Tessho Hagiwara and first made famous by singer Hitoshi Ueki. In the original Dark Horse English version, "Weird Al" Yankovic was considered to be an equivalent.

Q-Taro the Ghost was a 1965 anime TV series, remade in 1971 and again in 1985, based on a manga by Fujiko Fujio, Hiroshi Fujimoto, and Motoo Abiko, the creators of *Doraemon*. It's also the subject of an extended joke in "Understanding *Oh My Goddess!* ... In Eight Pages Or Less!" the fan manga by Yoshitoh Asari which opens Dark Horse's forthcoming book *Oh My Goddess! Colors*.

138.4: The original English version of Vol. 1 had Keiichi plotting to play Barry White, but interestingly, his own taste in romantic music runs to George Winston, a pianist who made the Windham Hill label famous for their "New Age" music with his 1982 album *December*.

149.5: The mental image Keiichi projects of the way people supposedly dress in his hometown would be like claiming American farmers today still look like the couple in Grant Wood's painting *American Gothic*, which you should really take the train to go see the next time you're attending Anime Central.

151.1: The guy on those four ¥10,000 notes is Yukichi Fukuzawa (1835-1901) both one of the last generation of samurai, and

a founder of modern Japan. Fukuzawa played—as an educator, newspaper publisher, and advocate of self-reliance—roles comparable to those of Benjamin Franklin in the founding of America. In his own *Autobiography*, Fukuzawa talks about what it was like to try and study modern science in the twilight of the samurai era, when a single imported textbook (the only kind available) on electrical theory cost today's equivalent of US\$20,000 in gold. Strangely, his own college days as he describes them—full of chemical experiments gone horribly wrong—sound not unlike a tale from Nekomi Tech, as do headings from that time in his *Autobiography* like, "We were capable of petty stealing," "Street fights for laughs," "Nudeness brings many adventures," and "Sanitation is all but disregarded."

Like Ben Franklin on the US \$100 bill, today Yukichi is on Japan's 10,000-yen note, the highest-valued bill in circulation. And just as in America, where it's all about the Benjamins, in Japan, it's all about the Yukichis. Michael Gombos, Dark Horse's Japanese Licensing Manager, points out Rina Ayukawa ("A-Ayukawa!"), a Kobe girl on the recent TV Asahi show *London Hearts* (a comedy show produced by "London Boots," the troupe name of Atsushi and Ryo Tamura—official site, <http://www.lonboo.com/>, an English-language review at <http://www.insitetokyo.com/column/hilo/index9.html>) popularized the saying about men and their money or unfortunate lack thereof, *otoko wa yappari Yukichi da ne* (which means basically, "as far as guys go, you know it all comes down to the Yukichis"). It should be noted that Risa herself became known by the title *Shijo Saiaku Mashou Onna*, "The Most Witchiest Girl In History," which, appropriately enough, also sounds very much like an *Oh My Goddess!* story.

154.2: Tokyo University is, together with Keio University (which Yukichi Fukuzawa founded) often considered to be the top school in Japan. But, hell, you've read *Love Hina*; you know that.

155.4: Velocity times the product of maximum thrust force minus total resistance, the sum then divided by the weight of the fuselage. I think. At Pomona, I majored in history. N.I.T. was Harvey Mudd.

166.3-4: About the rentals listings that are up on the wall: the top line of each listing indicates how many minutes away the apartment is from Nekomi Tech, suggesting, of course, this place rents to a lot of students. The big number(s) in the center give the size of the apartment as measured in *jo*, which is the theoretical size of a Japanese tatami mat. I say *theoretical*, as exactly how big a "jo" is can vary by region in Japan, and also on the age of the building (it is said that a jo doesn't go as far as it used to), and whether one is talking about an apartment, a condominium, or a house. This is one case where even the U.S.'s old-fashioned use of feet and inches is more specific. Having said that, a "typical" jo for an apartment is roughly 16 1/2 square feet.

Returning to the way these listings are written, a single big number (like the "6") means a one-room studio apartment; the "K" next to it confirms a kitchen. Two numbers (like the "6.3") mean a two-room apartment; here the "D" means a dining room. Three numbers (like the "6.6.45") means three rooms. The numbers themselves measure how many jo each room is; traditionally, you'll notice, in multiples of 1.5 (the "45" signifies 4.5). So a 3-jo room is about 49 1/2 sq. feet, a 4.5-jo room is about 74 sq. feet, and a 6-jo room is about 99 sq. feet. This is what happens, of course,

when you have 127 million people living in a country the size of California.

The line below the big number(s) confirms the number of rooms. We know what you're getting for your money, but for how much money? The lower right numbers indicate the monthly rent for each unit; the first number shows how many tens of thousands, then how many thousands. So the "6" studio apartment (where you might have to share bathrooms, like in a dorm) costs 32,000 yen a month, whereas the "6.6.45" goes for a whopping 103,000. This particular chapter of *Oh My Goddess!* appeared in May of 1989; however, these rents are the same kind you might still find today around many universities—although in Tokyo you would probably pay at least a third more.

Finally, in the lower left corner of each listing are two numbers. The first is the number of months' rent that must be paid as *shikikin*, a security deposit refundable upon moving out. All of these units demand two months' rent for shikikin, but that's fair enough, like the standard American "first and last month's rent." But the second number is the disgusting practice of *reikin*, the so-called "remuneration" which is basically a bribe—or obligatory gift if you like—given to your landlord for the privilege of being allowed to pay rent to live there! As you can see, all these units also ask two months' rent for that, too—and needless to say, you don't get it back.

Nor is there any guarantee your landlord will look like Kyoko Otonashi. Sorry, but this volume is on the eighties tip.

—CGH



Creator Kosuke Fujishima in 1989!

**His message to fans in the original
Japanese *Oh My Goddess!* Vol. 1:**

"I've been so busy working on the manga that I haven't even had the chance to go outside; in fact, just now I found myself realizing that I literally hadn't so much as set foot out the door in the past three days. And it looks like I'm not going to get away anywhere this summer, either. So, remember the only leisure I'll get is from your fan mail."

Oh My Goddess!

ああ女神さま

1

HERE'S WHERE IT ALL BEGINS!

Alone in his dorm on a Saturday night, Nekomi Tech's Keiichi Morisato dials a wrong number that will change his life forever—reaching the Goddess Technical Help Line. Granted one wish by the charming young goddess Belldandy—a wish for anything in the world—Keiichi wishes she would stay with him always! How is his mysterious new “exchange student” companion going to be received on the N.I.T. campus? A little too well for normal life to ever return...



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